FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 FEBRUARY 1986

IDF Search Operation in Lebanon

IDF units continued their search for the two kidnapped Israeli soldiers on the morning of 19 February, Jerusalem radio reported, noting that IDF officers believe the kidnap squad is still in southern Lebanon. Meanwhile, the Islamic Resistance warned that one of the captive Israelis will be executed if the IDF does not withdraw by 1900 GMT 19 February from all the villages that were "targets of the latest Israeli invasion," AFP disclosed. The IDF spokesman earlier acknowledged that an IDF corporal was killed 18 February when an Israeli boat off the coast of Tyre came under fire from the shore, according to Jerusalem radio. The IDF uncovered many arms caches and interrogated hundreds of local residents in the searches that day, the radio noted. Beirut radio carried various reports on local resistance to the Israelis, including an Amal Movement statement claiming that the Israelis lost a helicopter, a warship, and a tank in the fighting. In remarks broadcast by the radio, Amal leader Nabih Birri congratulated the kidnappers on their "heroic deed" and told Israel that "the only solution lies in its unconditional and total withdrawal, along with its agents, from all Lebanese territory." In another development, the kidnappers of a group of Lebanese Jews announced the execution of another Jewish hostage in a communique reported by AFP, maintaining that the "spy" was executed in response to Israel's "terrorist" operations in southern Lebanon.

Iran-Iraq War

The three Iraqi columns resumed their advance 18 February after crushing a series of "desperate" enemy attacks in which 1,280 Iranians were killed and large numbers were captured, Iraq announced in a military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. The Iraqi Navy destroyed another troop ship carrying Iranian reinforcements, the communique added, and Iraqi air defenses shot down two more Iranian warplanes. Another Iranian fighter was downed early 19 February, according to an Iraqi spokesman cited by INA.

An Iranian communique reported by Tehran radio acknowledged "large-scale" Iraqi attempts to penetrate Iranian positions around Al Faw 18 February, but maintained that the Iranians inflicted a severe defeat on the enemy, killing or wounding hundreds of enemy troops. On the chemical weapons issue, IRNA noted that 35 Iranians have arrived in West Europe to receive treatment for injuries caused by chemical weapons.

Jordan

In a related development, the Jordanian Government denounced "flagrant Libyan support for the criminal Iranian aggression" in a statement broadcast by Amman radio, reaffirming Jordan's "full support" for Iraq.

Libya-Chad

GUNT forces have military control over Zigey, Kouba Olanga, and six other towns below the 16th parallel in Chad, a GUNT military spokesman told Libya's Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio. The spokesman condemned the French Government air raid on Ouadi Doum airport 16 February and said that a Chadian pilot flying a GUNT fighter plane attacked Ndjamena airport in retaliation.

Syria

Damascus television broadcast the "text" of President Hafiz al-Asad's interview with the Paris paper *LIBERATION* in which he emphasized his desire to avoid any Syrian military intervention in internal Lebanese conflicts, even if the parties fail to reach a solution. Affirming that the tripartite agreement remains "the only door for the Lebanese to achieve peace," Al-Asad criticized President Amin al-Jumayyil's stand on the agreement as "not positive or constructive." On relations with Jordan, he stressed the importance of continuing good relations, though he noted that no date has been set for him to visit Amman. As for the PLO, Al-Asad disclosed that he received PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi in Damascus "a few months ago," but he reiterated Syria's opposition to the PLO-Jordanian agreement.

Algeria

President Chadli Bendjedid appointed four new ministers and five new deputy ministers and reorganized the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN Central Committee, Algiers radio reported.

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Syria Opposed To Iranian Intrusion Into Iraq

GF180903 Doha QNA in Arabic 0815 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Kuwait, 18 Feb (QNA) — Press reports published here today indicated that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad informed Iran anew that any intrusion into Iraqi territory is regarded as an intrusion of the Syrian territories.

Citing a source in the presidential palace, the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM* said that President al-Asad recalled Iran's ambassador in Damascus and told him that Syria — which has defined its stand on this basis since the outbreak of the Iraqi-Iranian war — "still commits itself to this and will never deviate from it." The source added that Syria also confirmed its position to Saudi and Kuwaiti foreign ministers His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad during their visit to Damascus yesterday. The paper indicated that the results of the visit of the Saudi and Kuwaiti ministers will appear shortly and they will be much further than diplomatic circles expect.

PLO's Khalil al-Wazir on Israel, 'Arafat, USSR

GF151505 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 14 Feb 86 p 16

[Interview with Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, by an unidentified correspondent in Amman — date not given]

[Text][*AL-WATAN*] Israel has been accusing you for a long time of being the head of terrorism.

[Khalil al-Wazir] We are fighting for the freedom of our people and for achieving a just solution to the Palestinian issue. The terrorism to which our people are being subjected and the expropriation of lands and the continuous attempt to destroy our national entity give us the right to defend ourselves. The threater of our operations is not in Europe, but in the place where our people are living under occupation. Moreover, the enemy is resorting to the organized state terrorism which gives it the right to punish the inhabitants who are living under the yoke of occupation and to expel and kill them.

[*AL-WATAN*] In addition to the military operations you are also responsible for economic life in the occupied territories. What about this aspect?

[Al-Wazir] Israel resorts to cruel and perfidious measures to destroy the Palestinian economy in the Arab territories which it occupied in 1967. Israel has imposed more than 30 different kinds of fees and taxes not found in any other part of the world. The Israelis control more than 54 percent of the lands in the West Bank and have established more than 190 settlements that constitute a nucleus for future towns. To help our people who are living under occupation we are making various efforts, including financial support, although our capabilities are limited. Of course, our objective is to maintain all features of social life beginning from agriculture and up to health and the cultural identity of our people. We want our people to stay on the land and not to leave it at all.

[*Al-WATAN*] Under the circumstances and situations prevailing now in the Middle East and in some Arab countries, the PLO depends only on its forces. Therefore, the divisions inside the PLO have weakened the Palestinian positions.

[Al-Wazir] We not deny that there are differences and that we have passed through different crises. Anyway we have achieved a high degree of unity inside Fatah. The legitimate leadership in Fatah enjoys the support of all elements and parties. Moreover, the divisions inside the movement resulted from the interference of foreign forces. This interference in Palestinian affairs continues now, especially when the matter concerns Syria's position toward certain Palestinian parties. Syria plays the role of mandate, thus denying the Palestinian right to self-determination. Despite the difficulties, we are making contacts with all parties and we will do what we can to achieve national unity. This is not easy. We again called for a PNC meeting to confirm national unity.

[*Al-WATAN*] There is an increasing Palestinian presence in Lebanon. What are your objectives?

[Al-Wazir] After the withdrawal from Beirut in 1982 a large number of our fighters returned to Lebanon. The reason for that is simple. Those men left their families there and it is natural that they wish to return.

[*Al-WATAN*] With their weapons?

[Al-Wazir] The fighters have returned to Lebanon in different ways, but without weapons. The Israeli Navy is watching the Lebanese coasts. It searches all passengers who arrive in Lebanon by sea and take the Palestinians to a camp in Hefa.

[*AL-WATAN*] According to Lebanese sources the PLO is using Jordanian lands to train its forces and send them to the occupied territories. Is there an agreement with Jordan in this regard?

[Al-Wazir] There are 1.5 million Palestinians in Jordan and there are 2 million Palestinians in the occupied territories. Jordan is the gateway to our homeland and it is the place of contact with our people. Jordan does not allow any training operation, nor does it allow the dispatch of Fedayeen to the occupied territories. Israel is making these claims to justify its attacks against our institutions in Jordan.

[*AL-WATAN*] There are rumors that King Husayn rejected a request by Yasir 'Arafat regarding the recognition of the right of Palestinians to self-determination.

[Al-Wazir] The question does not lie in the rejection or denial of our rights by King Husayn. King Husayn conveys the U.S. position; this is the core of the problem. The U.S. Administration rejects our right to self-determination.

[*Al-WATAN*] Why is there a coolness in relations between the PLO and the Soviet Union? How do you explain the changes that have taken place after the U.S.-Soviet summit?

[AL-Wazir] Our movement is a national liberation movement that has been struggling against U.S. imperialism for more than 20 years. During this struggle the Soviet Union has been a friend.

We do not deny that Palestinian-Soviet relations passed through a cool period. Differences took place because the Soviet Union opposed the Amman agreement due to incorrect information it received from Syria. Through quiet dialogue we managed to clarify many matters. After Yasir 'Arafat's meeting with Soviet envoy Polyakov several meetings were held between Palestinian and Soviet officials, especially during a visit made by a Palestinian delegation led by Faruq Qaddumi.

[*AL-WATAN*] Several meetings have taken place recently between the PLO and representatives of the Syrian Government. Does this mean that there is a possibility of an improvement in Syrian-Palestinian relations?

[Al-Wazir] We think that Syria is responsible for the weak relations. Through contacts made in several European cities we stressed that Syria should put an end to its crusade against our legitimate leadership and stop creating splits in the Fatah movement and in various Palestinian organizations. We repeat that Israel is the only beneficiary from the deterioration of relations between Syria and the PLO.

[*AL-WATAN*] What about the representation of the PLO in an international conference? Are you ready to accept Security Council Resolution No 242?

[Al-Wazir] We consider Resolution No 242 inadequate for achieving our rights and destiny. The PNC has decided not to accept this resolution, because it regards the Palestinian issue as an issue of refugees and not as an issue of a people and legitimate rights. The United Nations adopted the resolution without the participation of the PLO. The objective of the resolution was to organize relations between Israel and neighboring Arab countries. We demand our right to self-determination. The resolution does not touch on the core of the problem. We demand an international conference with the participation of the PLO.

[*Al-WATAN*] Bloody struggle took place in the PDRY. You have issued orders to regular Palestinian units in the YAR to move to the PDRY.

[Al-Wazir] We have regular units in the two Yemens. Most of these units are stationed in the YAR. When conflicts raged between the brothers in the PDRY we offered what we could offer to stop the bloodshed. At the request of the Soviet Union we sent some units to the PDRY to disengage the two warring parties. However, our presence did not please some parties there and for this reason we decided to withdraw.

[*Al-WATAN*] The Middle East is continuously subjected to disturbances and unrest. What do you expect in the coming days or weeks?

[Al-Wazir] First I hope that the brothers in the PDRY will overcome their differences and will stop shedding Arab blood. We expect the Zionist enemy to strike at our institutions in one of the Arab countries. It is anticipated that Lebanon, Jordan, Tunis, and the YAR will be targets for Israel.

BAHRAIN

Iranian Foreign Ministry Official Continues Visit

Conveys Message to Shaykh Al Khalifah

GF191014 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Manama, 19 Feb (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, has received a message from Iranian President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i dealing with current developments in the region.

The message was delivered today by Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani, director general of political affairs at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, during his meeting with the amir of Bahrain.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and acting prime minister; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, interior minister; and 'Abbas (Shakuhi), the Iranian charge d'affaires in Bahrain.

KUWAIT

Foreign Minister Returns from Visit to Baghdad

LD171943 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1926 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Kuwait, 17 Feb (KUNA) — The acting prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir returned home this evening after a brief visit to Baghdad, during which he conferred with the Iraqi president, Sadam Husayn.

Discusses Baghdad, Damascus Visits

GF181125 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 Feb (WAKH) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has reported that there is a development in the Syrian position toward Iraq.

The UAE newspaper *AL-ITTIHAD* quoted Shaykh Sabah as saying: "We witnessed a tangible improvement in the Syrian position toward fraternal Iraq. But this position needs further efforts to motivate it in the direction of comprehensive solidarity." Shaykh Sabah said that he and Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi foreign minister reviewed with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad during their visit to Damascus the grave situation on the warfronts and the current Arab disintegration in order to work in the direction of restoring solidarity between the two fraternal countries at this terrible time.

The Kuwaiti minister declined to answer a question as to whether Syria presented any limited proposal to participate in ending the war. Yet he alluded to Iraq's readiness to respond to the Syrian role when he said: "We found President Saddam Husayn as always [a man who] extends his hand for peace." Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad and Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal visited Baghdad yesterday and held talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on the activities of the Arab seven-member committee which pertain to the Iraqi-Iranian war.

On the other hand, sources close to Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal say that the two messages conveyed by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad to the Syrian president basically dealt with the dangers of continuing the war and the prospects of its expansion so that this requires the massing of Arab efforts to contain it and to attempt to find suitable solutions within the framework of a joint Arab effort that includes Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait together with the Arab League General Secretariat and the ICO.

Sudan's Military Council Deputy Chairman Arrives

LD171223 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0820 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Kuwait, 17 Feb (KUNA) — This morning, Deputy Chairman of the Sudanese Transitional Military Council Lieutenant General Taj al-Din Abdullah Fadl arrived in Kuwait on an official visit which will last for several days. On arrival he was welcomed by the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Administration and Manpower Brigadier Mizid 'Abd al-Rahman al-Sani'; a number of senior officers at the Ministry of Defense; and the Sudanese ambassador to Kuwait and his staff.

Tomorrow Taj al-Din will have an audience with Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and will meet with senior officials.

Conveys Message to Amir

LD181100 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Excerpts] The Amir of Kuwait received at 0930 today Lieutenant General Taj al-Din 'Abdallah Fadl, deputy chairman of the Transitional Military Council of the Fraternal Republic of Sudan, who conveyed a message to his highness from his brother, Lieutenant General 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab.

Received by Al-Kharafi

LD182006 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1649 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Kuwait, 18 Feb (KUNA) — Deputy chairman of the Sudanese Transitional Military Council Lieutenant General Taj al-Din 'Abdullah Fadl, who is on a visit to the country, has conferred with the Minister of Finance and Economy Jasim Mohammad al-Kharafi. During the meeting they discussed bilateral relations between the two countries, the IMF decision to freeze the loans granted to Sudan and other issues of mutual interest.

AL QABAS: Oil Minister Discusses Trip to USSR

GF141805 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 12 Feb 86 pp 1, 21

[Text] [Oil and Industry Minister] Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah told *AL-QABAS* following his return to Kuwait yesterday that the issue of exchanging Kuwaiti oil for Soviet weapons falls within the framework of future comprehensive cooperation between the two countries. He added that the two sides discussed the issue of exchanging oil for oil, petroleum products for petroleum products, and chemical products for chemical products. He added that in case there are further areas of cooperation, these will be considered.

The minister called his visit to the Soviet Union very successful. He added that the Soviets gave special importance to the visit, and that this was demonstrated in the lenghthy — over 1 and 1/2 hours — meeting which took place with the Soviet prime minister. During this meeting their discussion focused on economic relations between the two countries [word indistinct] asserting that as the political relations are excellent, the economic relations consequently should be just as good. Four areas of discussion were defined. They include technical cooperation in the Soviet Union or Kuwait because the Soviets are advanced in certain technological expertise. Kuwait has advanced expertise in certain areas. Therefore, it was agreed that discussions should focus on means to exchange expertise through the execution of projects in the Soviet Union and Kuwait.

Minister al-Khalifah indicated that the two sides aslo agreed to jointly implement cooperation between the Soviet Union and Kuwait in other countries and to consider the possibility of jointly executing these projects. He added that they also discussed trade relations, particularly pertaining to exchange of crude oil derivatives, petrochemicals, and refined oil products so that each country will provide agents of the other country with these products so that there will be large savings in transport costs.

The minister said that they discussed financial cooperation between the Kuwaiti and Soviet institutions. Meetings were set up between investment officials in the two countries.

On the international oil market, the minister said that the current situation affects the OPEC and non-OPEC countries. OPEC cannot unilaterally do anything to tackle this situation. The OPEC countries are developing countries which need financial resources. Without the cooperation of the non-OPEC members the prices cannot be defended. The minister said that sooner or later the non-OPEC countries will be ready to cooperate.

PDRY

Al-'Attas Opens Council of Ministers' Session

GF181552 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] The Council of Ministers held a regular meeting today under the chairmanship of Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the YSP Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers. Brother Engineer Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the YSP Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, attended the beginning of the meeting. The council observed a 1-minute silence in memory of the martyrs of the fascist coup attempted by plotter 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his clique.

Brother al-'Attas then congratulated the members of the council on the confidence vested in them by the party and state. He affirmed that the Council of Ministers, with its new formation under the chairmanship of Comrade Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, will rise to the level of the great confidence vested in it to carry out all assigned tasks. He said that the tasks of the new government following the incidents of 13 January are great and difficult. He said that as a result of this the government must exert efforts to eliminate the effects of the plot; to work to consolidate the unity of the party, the people, and institutions; to restore the tranquillity and confidence of the masses; to consolidate the relationship between the government, party, the state organs and the popular and social organizations; to overcome the previous negative practices; to bring the negligent to task; and to solve the accumulated problems and form central organs to combat these negative practices. He stressed the need to maintain law and discipline, not to allow any violations of them, to deal firmly with any violations, to devote special attention to supplies and services which concern the life of the masses, and to rationalize consumption and warn the people against extravagance and [word indistinct].

In the name of the members of the council and on his behalf Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man thanked the brother chairman and affirmed that the government will be up to the level of the responsibility and confidence vested in it and that it will work in a collective spirit and with a high national feeling of responsibility toward the homeland, the people, and party for implementing party resolutions and for consolidating our national democratic regime. He said that the government will give priority in its work to the elimination of the effects of the abortive coupist plot and the reconstruction of the various organs. He also thanked the brother chairman for his keenness to open the first meeting of the council.

After that the council proceeded to discuss the issues on its agenda. It passed a number of resolutions essential for financial control of the general budget for 1986 in implementation of the resolution of the 21st session of the Supreme People's Council and other resolutions on the projects included in the investment plans for 1986. The council took a number of measures on the investment plans in light of the policy adopted by the YSP Political Bureau, YSP Central Committee, and the Supreme People's Council. The council also discussed in detail a report on the urgent tasks necessary to confront what has resulted from the abortive coupist plot and to ensure a stable life for the families of those who have died or who have been detained in accordance with the effective regulations and laws. The council asked the ministers and chairmen of the central organs to determine the material and human losses inflicted on their ministries and departments subordinate to them as a result of the plot and to envisage ideas about ways to remedy and repair them and to present these ideas to the council (?later).

YSP Official, USSR Envoy Discuss Relations

GF181610 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general and secretary of the YSP Central Committee, met at his office today Comrade Vladislav Zhukov, Soviet ambassador in Aden. They discussed relations between the two parties and countries. They also reviewed their versatile cooperation which serves the consolidation and deepening of the intimate relations between the two parties and friendly countries. They also discussed party cooperation and the importance of the participation of our delegation led by the brother secretary general in the 27th CPSU Congress.

Brother Salim Salih Muhammad expressed the satisfaction of our party and people with these steps, especially with regard to the return of the Soviet experts who are contributing with us to building our national economy and the continuation of work on the thermoelectrical plant, oil and minerals exploration projects, oil refining, and other vital fields.

At the end of this meeting the Soviet ambassador affirmed the keenness of the Soviet Union to bolster and consolidate bilateral relations in all fields.

YSP Official on Issues to TASS Correspondent in Aden

GF182010 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general and secretary of the YSP Central Committee, has affirmed that the PDRY will continue to develop and bolster relations with the friendly Soviet Union at all levels and in every field. In a statement to the TASS correspondent in Aden, Brother Salim Salih Muhammad said: The friendship and cooperation ties between the governments and parties of our two countries, which are based on common goals and struggle against imperialism, are multisided and long-term relations. He emphasized that the constant, decisive, and sublime support offered by the Soviet Union to the PDRY people has contributed toward making our revolution successful and strengthening the progressive regime in the PDRY.

Brother Salim Salih Muhammad highly valued this support and expressed pride in our country's friendship with the friendly Soviet Union which has proven through experience to be loyal to all the Arab people. He emphasized that the PDRY will exert every effort to develop this friendship and cooperation and complement it according to our common interests. He reiterated that the PDRY will do all it can to maintain good relations with neighboring countries, especially the northern part of the homeland, Oman, and the Arab Gulf states.

He pointed out that the PDRY will constantly and decisively support the just struggle of the Arab Palestinian people to regain their legitimate rights and establish their independent national state. He said: The PDRY will support the Syrian and Lebanese peoples who are struggling against Zionsit aggression. He denounced the aggressive trend of the United States and the Zionist entity against Libya and pointed out that this aggression reflects the results of the so-called strategic alliance between Washington and Tel Aviv and reveals its anti-Arab nature. He added: The PDRY feels that every Arab country, without exception, must participate in the struggle against the United States and the Zionist entity.

He said: Our external policies are fixed by our party conference, documents, and resolutions taken by the YSP Central Committee. These policies are characterized by a constant and long-term trend based on international cooperation, peaceful coexistence, neighborliness, mutual interests, and noninterference in the affairs of others. He said: We are exerting every effort to realize these principles in practice. In order to achieve success it is necessary for neighboring Arab countries, which have social regimes different than ours, also to abide by these principles.

Brother Salim Salih also talked about the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war. He said that this war absolutely does not serve the interests of the Iraqi or Iranian peoples, or the interests of other peoples in the region. It takes human lives that cannot be compensated for, inflicts grave damage on their economies, and diverts attention from the struggle against the primary and joint enemy — imperialism and Zionism. He affirmed the need to end this war and the stance of our country in helping to hold a peaceful dialogue between the two sides.

The brother assistant secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and secretary of the Central Committee talked about security in the Indian Ocean and pointed out that the PDRY, which is loyal to the principles of the Nonaligned Movement, calls for the removal of all military bases and naval fleets in its waters, explaining in this regard the great threat posed by the U.S. military base in Diego Garcia against all countries. He pointed out that the huge arsenals amassed by the Pentagon on this island keeps the countries of this region in a constant state of tension and obstructs their development, progress, and democracy. He reiterated the PDRY's support for Soviet initiatives on turning the Indian Ocean into a nuclear-free zone and into a region of peace and stability, free of military bases, fleets, and arsenals. Brother Salim Salih Muhammad concluded by saying that we are exerting every effort to reach this noble goal which is in line with the vital interests of all nations.

Agriculture Minister Discusses PDRY-USSR Projects

GF151818 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] An expanded meeting was held today for the workers in joint PDRY-Soviet projects, the workers of the general poultry board, Al-Hafr establishment, and the educational cadres in the cooperative institute.

At the beginning of the meeting, brother Ahmad 'Ali Muqbil, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform, greeted the efforts that the workers and technicians working in the PDRY-Soviet projects are making in order to implement the programs of these vital projects, which are aimed at developing the agricultural sector, and the primary economic structures for the sake of the progress of the national economy through the execution of the development plans that are carried out by the joint PDRY-Soviet projects in Abyan, Lahij, and Hadramawt Governorates.

He affirmed that the conscious role in carrying out such projects profoundly indicates the PDRY-Soviet friendly relationship which grows and gathers strength through the victory of our party's and revolution's cause.

The minister of agriculture and agrarian reform also spoke of the dimensions of the abortive coupist attempt which was led by the schemer 'Ali Nasir and his treasonous clique. He refuted the dimensions and goals of this conspiracy. He called on the workers and technicians in the agricultural sector institutes to make efforts and cooperate in order to carry out future tasks to develop the agricultural sector.

The meeting was attended by Brother Najib Qudar, deputy minister of agriculture and agrarian reform; and the comrade economic adviser at the USSR Embassy in Aden.

Lebanese Sources Interview Officials on Coup

AL-NAHAR Al-'Attas Interview

NC181343 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 14 Feb 86 p 8

[Interview with PDRY President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas by correspondent Khayrallah Khayrallah at Al-'Attas' home in Aden — date not given]

[Text] [Khayrallah] What are you going to do both inside and outside the PDRY to get the country out of its present situation?

[Al-'Attas] The unsuccessful coup by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, naturally, has resulted in several problems for us. We will do our best to remove the effects of the coup from domestic society and the economy. We will do this by unifying the party and the people, and by healing all the wounds of families. Also, we have to cleanse the national economy and to repair the damage to our institutions. These must become fully operational again to overcome the period of inactivity and to fulfill the requirements for 1986, according to the proposed YSP and People's Assembly plans and programs.

[Khayrallah] What about relations with other countries?

[Al-'Attas] We are completely confident that our brothers and friends, once they understand the incidents surrounding 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's massacre of the party leaders and cadres, will stand by the PDRY people, and will condemn his crimes. These brothers and friends will also understand what took place in the PDRY. We want to stress that the situation is stable. We are trying to maintain our foreign policy. We look forward to fraternal relations with the north, with the GCC countries, and with all Arab and foreign countries, particularly the USSR.

[Khayrallah] Did the coup affect ties with Libya?

[Al-'Attas] I do not think so. Our envoy explained the recent incidents to the Libyan leadership.

[Khayrallah] However, your personal envoy was received by Muhammad Zarruq Rajab, secretary of the People's General Congress in Libya, but Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received 'Ali Nasir Muhammad for four hours.

[Al-'Attas] Perhaps Al-Qadhdhafi wanted 'Ali Nasir Muhammad to brief him on the details of the massacre. Certainly, we believe that the Libyan leadership will support the people and the party, and not the individuals.

[Khayrallah] What about relations with Ethiopia?

[Al-'Attas] They are improving. 'Ali Nasir Muhammad is trying to mislead many of our brothers and friends. But the facts, which are completely the opposite of what he says, have become known to all. Since his claims are baseless, we believe that no one will support him.

[Khayrallah] Have ties with Ethiopia cooled?

[Al-'Attas] Yes, they have cooled, but we are certain that this is temporary; these ties will soon be back to normal.

AL-NAHAR Al-Bid Interview

NC181251 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 14 Feb 86 pp 1, 8

[Interview with YSP Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid by *AL-NAHAR* correspondent Khayrallah Khayrallah, conducted at the former's residence in Aden — date not given]

[Excerpts][Khayrallah] How would you deal with the soldiers and civilians who are loyal to 'Ali Nasir Muhammad?

[Al-Bid] Those soldiers and civilians who took part in the horrible crimes perpetrated will be dealt with in accordance with the law, in keeping with established practices, and in line with the available evidence. As for the other supporters of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad who were outside the country or who did not take part (in the action), we shall be forgiving and we will reeducate them. Those who did not participate and want to be accepted again will find the door open. Indeed, we call on all who were deceived and all who took sides to return to the fold. We will treat them with lenience. Only the criminals will be brought to justice and this will be done in broad daylight.

[Khayrallah] But, there is much talk inside and outside Aden about revenge. Is this actually taking place?

[Al-Bid] I do not think so. As far as I know, there has been a great deal of self-restraint. We do not believe in retaliation. Talk about vengeance is meant as a smokescreen for the acts perpetrated by 'Ali Nasir and his clique.

[Khayrallah] It is being said that there is a large number of detainees. Can you give me a figure?

[Al-Bid] I have no exact figure on the number of detainees. The Political Bureau has ordered several groups released.

[Khayrallah] How many have been released so far?

[Al-Bid] So far, 1063 detainees have been freed.

[Khayrallah] Do you think the party will be able to restore internal unity after all that has happened?

[Al-Bid] The party will examine past experience. Actually, we had already agreed to do it even at the time of 'Ali Nasir. We wanted to take stock before the conference (the Third YSP Conference held in October 1985). We wanted to avoid repeating mistakes. Our party, which withstood the plot, has proven its cohesion under duress. What happened is an indication that the party's integrity and purity will be further enhanced and protected. We shall do our best to consolidate the party's unity as well as the home front.

[Khayrallah] How is it that you speak of party unity while whole areas are not represented in the new YSP leadership?

[Al-Bid] We are not a parliament. 'Ali Nasir used to introduce each one of us to another of his regions. [as published] He was trying to resuscitate and to entrench tribal affiliations. We are a party, not a parliament.

[Khayrallah] Have you received assurance from the north that there will be no interference in PDRY internal affairs and that the activities of hostile forces will be curbed?

[Al-Bid] We believe that our brothers in the north are eager to avoid a recurrence of the events of 1972 and 1979 (military confrontation between the two countries).

Our shared commitment to the normalization of ties and to the reactivation of the unity committees will be instrumental in restoring our relations. We do not think that the north will create any tension or problems for us. Our position is clear: We remain committed to improving relations with the north; we want to build on our achievements.

Our party, our policy, and our dedication to improved relations with the north are unchanging.

[Khayrallah] Are there actual contacts between the southern and the northern parts of Yemen?

[Al-Bid] We have tried to get in touch with the government in the north and at present are doing so through its envoy to the United Nations. We are telling them that contacts could be easier from here (Aden).

[Khayrallah] Do you have contacts with Saudi Arabia?

[Al-Bid] There are none as yet, through no fault on our part.

[Khayrallah] Are Soviet experts beginning to return?

[Al-Bid] Yes, the Soviet Union has begun to send back its experts. We are working to ensure that all return. More of them, particularly those who work in the economic field, will return within the next few days.

[Khayrallah] It is being said that your country is a Soviet base!

[Al-Bid] We have no Soviet bases. The USSR is a friend. Our relations are increasing steadily.

AL-SAFIR Salih Muhammad Interview

NC181159 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic
15 Feb 86 pp 1,10

[Interview with Salim Salih Muhammad, YSP assistant secretary general, by *AL-SAFIR* correspondent 'Abd al-Sattar al-Laz in Aden — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Laz] There has been much talk about the role of neighboring countries in PDRY events. I have heard, for example, that you seized a quantity of Saudi riyals which were at the disposal of one of the supporters of 'Ali Nasir in Aden. How true is this talk?

[Muhammad] The planning and execution of the operation, the persons who recently returned to the country from camps in neighboring countries and who participated in the fighting, the way things were organized, and the Western weapons that were confiscated, all this confirms that this operation was amazingly large by local standards.

We are now investigating to find out who were involved in financing, planning, and executing this operation.

[Al-Laz] Does this mean that you have information in this regard?

[Muhammad] Yes.

[Al-Laz] Has the YAR anything to do with this?

[Muhammad] We are not accusing anyone. However, we will continue the investigations, particularly with those who were arrested. We will announce the results so that the public, both home and abroad, may learn the truth.

[Al-Laz] Did you ever feel during the events that there were invasion plans?

[Muhammad] Certainly. Intentions to interfere in our affairs continue to exist. However, we ask others not to intervene. We respect the sovereignty and freedom of others and refuse to interfere in their affairs; we expect them to reciprocate and respect our sovereignty and independence. We want to coexist with them on the basis of good neighborliness and mutual benefit. We believe that wars are destructive and will only cause losses and obstruct progress.

Therefore, we sincerely say that we favor a stable situation in the area and coexistence with its various regimes. This policy would enable our people to make progress, achieve development, and live in peace.

[Al-Laz] It has been reported that you received guarantees from certain neighboring states that they would not interfere in your affairs, either directly or through a third party. How true are such reports?

[Muhammad] The efforts of Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in this regard convince us that he certainly wishes to spare Yemen any new wars. Furthermore, the communique that we issued jointly with Oman demonstrates that the two sides want to maintain normal relations.

Regarding our brothers in Saudi Arabia, we also hope that relations with them will remain normal, as they are built on the same foundations. For our part, we reiterate to all our brothers and neighbors whether in the peninsula or in other Arab areas that our policy is the same peaceful policy that we have made strenuous efforts to establish. We dispatched envoys to several Arab countries to convey our assurances in this regard. We would like to express our thanks to our Algerian, Libyan, Syrian, Kuwaiti, and Omani brothers for their positions, on the basis of which we will continue to cooperate with them.

AL-SIYASAH Interviews YSP Official on Soviet Role

GF161700 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic
15 Feb 86 pp 11, 22

[Interview with Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the YSP, by *AL-SIYASAH* correspondent Nabil Ghazzawi in Aden — date not given]

[Excerpts][Nabil Ghazzawi] It has been said that the 13 January events were concluded in your favor by the Soviet forces. In other words, that these forces directly interfered in the PDRY's internal affairs and that without the intervention of these forces you would not have succeeded. What is your explanation and reply to this?

[Salim Salih Muhammad] Arab media and public opinion sometimes fall victim to leaks by intelligence circles, particularly U.S. intelligence. Those who have followed up the situation and developments that took place, know that the Soviet stance from the beginning was not to intervene in the PDRY's internal affairs and this is actually what the Soviets practiced. From the first minutes, the U.S. stance, as well as that of some countries supporting the U.S. stance, was clear. To this minute the U.S. still persists in its stance despite our victory and the abortion of the plot. The U.S. hands are clear and present, just like in the planning and financing of a big criminal plot.

After this failure, what do you expect the Americans to say. They will certainly blame the Soviet Union. I can say that the Soviet Union stood by us in halting any foreign intervention. Our workers, farmers, soldiers, and party members were the ones who aborted this conspiracy, overcame it, settled it, and defended the sovereignty of the homeland and its borders, security, and safety.

[Ghazzawi] Foreign media says that the newly elected administration in the PDRY carries the red banner and will further consolidate communism in the region. What is your answer to this?

[Muhammad] If loyalty to the homeland and defending it and at the same time standing against such barbaric acts and the terrorism that 'Ali Nasir Muhammad used to personally carry out is considered an extremist act, then let the others judge us. Concerning the question of communism, it is still far away and does not scare anybody. That is, we in our country are trying to carry out national and democratic tasks at the same time, and might need centuries perhaps to reach the supreme stage of communism. Therefore, there is no need for such fear. We are keen for the progress and development of our people. For this reason we will make all the necessary sacrifices, including the great sacrifices in which we lost our dearest, best, and noblest leaders for these national and internationalist goals. If this is described as extremism, then let the others judge us. We have been asked this question before by American correspondents and we told them that we are very keen for the construction, development, and happiness of our homeland.

At the same time, we also believe in the right of others to choose the trend they want and we will continue to respect the decisions of others. At the same time, want others to respect ours. The question of extremism is part of the propaganda which is aimed at isolating us and presenting a dark picture of us.

Certainly, we can say that nothing has changed in the PDRY — the party is the same and our charters are the same. Our charters are not secret and have been published. We are a small nation that wants to construct its life. We defend our freedom and honor with pride. For this freedom and honor we did not kneel or surrender, but continued to pride ourselves and our freedom and the honor of our people. We will continue to be proud and will deal with others as they deal with us. Whoever respects our freedom and sovereignty, or whoever opposes us will receive an appropriate response. Since independence and even before it, these circles have spread rumors and tried to present the situation as unstable. They constantly confront us. Despite this, the many plots and wagers against us have failed and victory has been achieved by our people — and such a victory is hard to get rid of. Therefore, others should understand this fact and respect the independence, progress, and development of our people.

[Ghazzawi] Who motivated 'Ali Nasir Muhammad to carry out the events of 13 January?

[Muhammad] Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad and Ahmad Musa'id Husayn were the ones who involved him in this operation and made him responsible for it. Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad used to tell him: You must liquidate those who oppose you. You must be a strong man. Do not allow these opinions to surface; do not allow a dialogue. You must liquidate them and then go to Abyan and at 1530 broadcast a statement and then return to Aden to broadcast a statement. [sentence as published] We understand that the CIA financed the conspiracy. I believe that you have seen some special types of weapons. We found a large number of arms in Abyan with Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad and Farhan 'Alawi Husayn, deputy minister of state security. These weapons were used for the first time. These arms include machineguns with silencers and weapons of highly destructive power made in the West. There are some Israeli machineguns. I do not know how they arrived here. You may come and see for yourself.

[Ghazzawi] Where were the Israeli and U.S. machineguns found?

[Muhammad] They were found in the village of Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad, and in the house of Farhan. He had foreign contacts with some of the elements which participated in the fighting. They used tactics that differed from army and militia training, which indicates that they were trained by foreign elements. This shows the size of the conspiracy and that it was systematically planned and carried out. It also shows the deceptive means which were used, the deceptive media campaigns, and the high degree of reporting on the events. Some of our friends became convinced that events were too big to be planned from inside, and information will prove that foreign hands were involved in this plot. These hands wanted to explode the situation not only in the PDRY but the entire Arab region.

One of our conflicts with 'Ali Nasir was the attitude of Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad who tried to make Abyan Governorate a state within the PDRY, and establish land borders and sea ports. He used to import and export freely. He established an international communication network unknown to anyone. He also purchased weapons. We consider this a very dangerous issue which undermined the security of the PDRY and the security of neighboring countries. This matter turned Abyan Governorate into a nucleous for forming a state — a third Yemen state. We realized this and tried to stop it. We tried to resist it through the party in the past, and during the first moments of the fighting when he tried to carry out this conspiracy. We can say that we have overcome this problem.

[Ghazzawi] You pointed out that Israeli weapons were confiscated. What types of weapons? Did any groups from outside of Yemen participate in the fighting?

[Muhammad] Certainly, Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad had conspicuous relations and we used to follow up his external activities. The martyrs' square in Abyan is a complex consisting of a restaurant, swimming pool, and a park. Numerous and various foreigners including Lebanese nationals, who do not represent the nationalist movement at all, and various other West European nationalities, even Filipinos and nationals from Southeast Asia, were brought in under the cover of working at the complex. These people used to bring in arms under cover. They used to import everything, such as cars, furniture, perfumes, and arms under this cover and they sold some of them in the country, and the rest on the borders with the neighboring countries, avoiding taxes and violating the law. This threatened the basic structure of the regime. Our country used to comprise 23 amirates and sultanates which we eventually united under the central regime of the PDRY. There was a danger that the regime would disintegrate and each governorate would claim autonomy, thus ending the central regime. This is what Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad actually attempted. There is another important issue that should be made known. In 1983 we tried to open the doors to those who wanted to return and were in the camps outside of our country and which were hostile to us. We said that we should open a new page with them. However, Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad allowed them to return in full strength. More dangerous than that was that he armed them and returned them to civil and military establishments. It is these elements that played a basic role in the fighting and practiced their hatred against unarmed citizens and civil and military cadres.

[Ghazzawi] What was the role of the Palestinians during the events in the PDRY with regard to participation in the cease-fire between the two sides?

[Muhammad] As a matter of fact, the Palestinian brethren did not participate in the fighting at all, even though there were some outside elements who did. We are aware of the Palestinian situation and of the complications on the Palestinian arena. We are also aware that there are elements who have connections with Mossad and who do not represent the Palestinian people, the PLO, or factions of the Palestinian resistance.

The situation in the first moments was complicated and confusing following the mobilization which was carried out by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his groups. For years he claimed he was a victim and he was being attacked and that he is a good and progressive man and so forth.

This was the game that he used to play. He used to practice one policy with the right and another with the left. He believed that he could succeed.

They succeeded in convincing some brothers that 'Ali Nasir was telling the truth and that there was an attack against the regime in the PDRY. We forgive many of the brothers for their stances in the initial moments, because after the situation became clear they realized the truth of what was going on and their responses were positive. We can say that all the brothers and friends have the same stance regarding the denunciation of any foreign intervention or assault against the PDRY's sovereignty and independence.

We are confident that in the future we will have better relations with our Palestinian brothers and that our country will support the unity of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of our Arab Palestinian people and efforts to restore their rights and establish their independent state on their territories.

We will establish better relations with the Arab national liberation movements and our brothers in the Arab countries, whether in the Arabian Peninsula, the Gulf, or the Arab region.

We will also continue our policy toward friendly countries and other countries which respect our sovereignty and independence. We will continue our policy on this basis whatever the size of the Western propaganda campaign or efforts to actually weaken our people's unity and to strike at and end this regime.

Justice Minister Carries Messages to Arab Leaders

GF181740 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Wasi' Sallam, minister of justice and awqaf, left Aden at noon today for a number of fraternal Arab countries carrying with him wirtten messages from brother Engineer Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the YSP Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, to the kings and presidents of these countries.

In a statement to ANA, the brother minister said that the messages deal with relations between our country and these countries and brief the kings and presidents on the painful bloody incidents witnessed by our country recently as a result of the vile plot led by plotter 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his clique.

He was seen off at the airport by Brothers Dr Ja'far Shawtaf, deputy minister of justice and awqaf; and Ahmad 'Umar Ba Matras, deputy chairman of the Republic's Supreme Court.

QATAR

Foreign Minister Receives Iranian Official

GF181122 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Today His Excellency Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, minister of state for foreign affairs, met in his office at the ministry with Mr Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani, political director general of political affairs for Arab and African countries at the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

During the meeting, they reviewed bilateral relations and the current developments in the region. The meeting was attended by Seyyed Baqer Sakha'i, Iranian ambassador in Doha.

Message Conveyed to Amir

GF181120 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani has received a verbal message from his excellency Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i. The message was conveyed by Mr Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani, political director general of political affairs for Arab and African countries at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, today during his meeting with the amir in his office at Doha Palace.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Seyyed Baqer Sakha'i, Iranian ambassador in Doha.

SAUDI ARABIA

Foreign Minister Returns from Iraq, Syria

GF181127 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Riyadh, 18 Feb (SPA) — Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal returned to Riyadh today from Baghdad after concluding two working visits to Iraq and Syria lasting 3 days.

During these visists His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal held talks with senior officials in the two countries pertaining to the recent developments in the Iraqi-Iranian war in particular and the developments of the situation in the Arab region.

Mubarak Comments On Palestinian-Jordanian Talks

NC181339 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 18 Feb (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has said that Egypt is playing a conciliatory role to bring the view of the PLO and Jordan closer together and set the stage for movement toward peace.

President Mubarak was speaking to newsmen following his talks with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat today. He stated: We are helping the PLO and Jordan to reconcile their views.

President Mubarak described Jordan as a major participant in the peace process, along with the PLO. He added that consultations are still going on between Jordan and the PLO and that communication between these two sides has not been broken off. He also voiced the belief that the PLO has opted for peaceful settlement.

President Mubarak noted that Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under scretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, was dispatched to Jordan yesterday.

He said that Dr al-Baz met with King Husayn and with Jordanian officials to learn their latest thoughts on the peace process so that Egypt could relay them to Yasir 'Arafat. The objective, Mubarak said, is to find a way to further the peace process and to reach an understanding between the PLO and Jordan in keeping with the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. This understanding would make it easier to hold the international conference, he added.

According to President Mubarak the talks between Jordan and the PLO are still continuing and renewed contact between the PLO and King Husayn may take place within the coming 2 days.

President Mubarak expressed the hope that the two sides would reach an agreement. He said: We expect them, God willing, to find a way or a formula to deal with the PLO's approval of Resolution 242.

The president explained that he had sent Dr al-Baz to meet with King Husayn because Jordan was a major party to the Middle East issue.

The president said that Al-Baz conveyed to King Husayn suggestions that could perhaps lead to a formula for dealing with the UN Security Council resolutions.

Concerning the three formulas that Egypt received from the PLO, President Mubarak was asked if they are the same formulas 'Arafat showed to Jordanian officials, or if they had been amended. He said: Egypt has not received the three formulas. The only formulas are those the PLO presented to Jordan.

President Mubarak asserted that the efforts in which Egypt is currently engaged are designed to help both sides. It is for the PLO and Jordan to reach a satisfactory formula for submission to the international conference.

The President was also asked whether the Egyptian and Palestinian positions are identical, a conclusion that Yasir 'Arafat's statements to newsmen would seem to indicate. President Mubarak said: The question is not whether our positions are identical. We are just trying to bring the two sides to agreement on a common position.

Replying to a question on the U.S. response to the three PLO formulas, President Mubarak said: The talks are continuing. I cannot talk about something definite now because the issue is not over yet.

Regarding reports that there is a problem between the PLO and Jordan and that is the reason why Dr Usamah al-Baz was sent to mediate, the president reacted by saying: There is no problem in the real sense of the word, but it is possible that there are some unclear matters between them. He added: By listening to the views of both parties, we are trying to help them reach a formula that could be the starting point for the international conference.

Asked whether the three formulas link Resolution 242 to the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, President Mubarak replied: The three formulas given to Jordan include the linkage between Security Council Resolution 242 and the Palestinian people's rights within the context of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, which stipulates the establishment of a confederation with Jordan.

President Mubarak dismissed reports that Egypt's stand is identical to the PLO's and against Jordan, saying these were unwarranted because Egypt has not special interest in creating a problem between Jordan and the PLO. The president added: We are looking for the public interest and that is for the two parties to agree on a formula that could advance the peace process.

Asked how optimistic he was about reaching this formula, President Mubarak said: It is possible. It is possible to reach a formula, but these weighty matters require more consultation and take a long time.

Asked if Dr Usamah al-Baz's visit to Amman yesterday had had positive results, President Mubarak asserted: Dr Usamah al-Baz went to Jordan to deliver my message to the Jordanian King and to discuss any new developmets so that with 'Arafat's cooperation an acceptable formula may be reached.

Replying to a question on whether the United States has understanding for the linkage between Security Council Resolution 242 and the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, particularly following the State Department's retraction, President Mubarak said: We do not want to talk about understanding or lack of understanding. What is important is that we first agree with each other and then we will see what the U.S. position is.

A foreign correspondent asked him further on the three formulas and the president remarked: We were only told about these three formulas, which were given to the Jordanian king. Jordan conveyed them to the United States.

Asked whether he will meet with Yasir 'Arafat again, President Mubarak said: 'Arafat will leave Egypt within 1 or 2 days. I do not know now where he will go. I believe that I will see him again in an effort to help him reach a solution regarding the formula on the recognition of Security Council Resolution 242.

The talks between President Mubarak and Yasir 'Arafat lasted 90 minutes.

'Arafat Leaves Cairo

NC181805 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 18 Feb (MENA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo this evening following a 6-day visit to Egypt, during which he held important discussions with President Husni Mubarak. He also had talks with Prime Minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi and Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The discussions centered on current developments in the Palestinian issue, the outcome of the recent Jordanian-Palestinian talks in Amman, and future moves vis-a-vis the Palestinian cause.

Sudanese Leader Receives Mubarak Message on Chad

NC171620 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Feb (MENA) — General 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab, chairman of Sudan's Transitional Military Council, has received an oral message from President Husni Mubarak. The message deals with bilateral relations and the situation in neighboring countries, with special emphasis on Chad. This was revealed by Ambassador Husayn 'Abbas Musharaffah, who delivered the message to Siwar al-Dhahab during a meeting today in Khartoum.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Taha Ibrahim Ayyun met with the Egyptian envoy earlier today. They discussed current conditions in the region and bilateral ties.

3-Day Airlift Resupplies Iraq With Weapons

GF181818 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
17 Feb 86 pp 1, 8

[Text] Cairo — Egypt has supplied Iraq with large amounts of military equipment. It established a 3-day aerial link last Tuesday to supply Iraq with arms. Two giant C-130 air transports were flown each day. The arms are of both Eastern and Western origin. The Egyptian weapons that arrived in Iraq recently are 10-times greater than those that Egypt had supplied to Iraq during the past 3 months and included weapons of high destructive power which Iraq had requested.

AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the Egyptian weapons sent to Iraq include swingfire antitank missiles; RPG-4 and RPG-7 antitank shells; field artillery shells; bombs, engines for MEE-8 helicopters [as published]; and engines for some Eastern vehicles that are maintained and overhauled in Egyptian military factories.

Official sources have affirmed to *AL-ITTIHAD* that Egypt did not send any forces or military experts or technicians to Iraq.

AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the Egyptian equipment that is being sent to Iraq is not affecting its own military arsenal, since it is compensating for this loss by obtaining military equipment from various sources.

Agriculture Minister Wali Returns From Iraq

NC182019 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture, returned to Cairo this evening after a 1-day visit to Baghdad. During his stay, he delivered a message from President Mubarak to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Brotherhood Leader Says Group to Form Political Party

GF141128 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0921 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 Feb (WAKH) — 'Umar al-Tilmisani, general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood Group in Egypt, has stated that the group will set up a political party for the first time so that it can begin political action through so-called "legitimate channels."

In a statement published today in the UAE newspaper *AL-ITTIHAD*, Al-Tilmisani said the group has completed the party program that will be announced and that it will present a request to the government to set up the party instead of joining the Al-Wafd party or any other party. He added: We have started the necessary measures that precede the formation of a party. These measures are recommendation by 20 members of the People's Assembly, the releasing of the names to the press, and responding to any objection that may ensue.

'Umar al-Tilmisani pointed out that the Muslim Brotherhood Group was forced to the idea of forming a party after all doors were closed to it that would enable it to propose its views in the People's Assembly and because the formation of a political party is the only means to enter elections and then the assembly. He noted that the new party will present a new form of political dialogue that is not available at present.

Further Reportage on Visit By Egypt's Wali

Received by Ramadan

JN181456 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1220 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Feb (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command, has met with Egyptian NDP Secretary General Dr Yusuf Wali. During the meeting, they affirmed the importance of the meetings between the two countries in the service of national and pan-Arab causes.

Dr Yusuf Wali affirmed the Egyptian NDP's stand alongside Iraq in its honorable defense against the new Iranian aggression which is aimed at the Arab nation's sovereignty. He condemned the Khomeyniite clique's expansionist schemes against Arab territory, as well as its rejection of all the calls for peace aimed at ending the Iranian aggression against Iraq.

Concludes Visit, Departs

JN181552 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Feb (INA) — Dr Yusuf Wali, Egyptian deputy prime minister and NDP secretary general, and his accompanying delegation left Baghdad for Cairo today at the end of an official visit to Iraq. In a predeparture statement to INA, Dr Wali said that he met with President Saddam Husayn, to whom he conveyed Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's greetings and Egypt's support for Iraq in the recent Iranian aggression.

Dr Wali added: As has always been the case, Iraq will teach the Iranian aggressors a new lesson as it has in previous battles. He added that the NDP will initiate a dialogue with the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party on common issues to coordinate stands and exchange visits between the two parties.

The Egyptian minister was seen off by Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister; the deputy chief of staff of the Armed Forces; and other officials.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Leaves Baghdad 17 Feb

JN172115 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2047 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Feb (INA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Baghdad tonight following a short visit to Iraq. He was seen off by Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information and acting foreign minister; Nuri Isma'il al-Wayyis, Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary; and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Baghdad.

Saudi Foreign Minister Leaves Baghdad 18 Feb

JN181021 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0905 GMT 18 feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Feb (INA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sau'd al-Faysal left Baghdad today after a brief visit to Iraq. Last night, Prince Sa'ud and Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with President Saddam Husayn.

INA Reports Yasir 'Arafat's Arrival in Baghdad

JN191020 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Feb (INA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived here at [time indistinct] on a visit to Iraq.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iran

Raid on Iranian Naval Base Reported

GF191208 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1135 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following: In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. By God, we will continue to chase them and destroy their dens over their heads, and eradicate their rotten presence at all times and wherever they may be.

O glorious Iraqis. Your eagles, together with their comrades at arms in our land and naval forces, have buried the aggressors in heaps. They buried with them their malicious dreams. The eagles continue to chase the enemy as far as his most important targets, in addition to their daily harvest of the aggressors' necks.

At 1315 [1015 GMT] today, the destructive lightning bolts among our valiant planes carried out a surprise and destructive raid on the advance headquarters of the naval forces in (Bara) Island. From this headquarters the enemy directs his naval operations and sends forth his unsuccessful units, and at this place numbers of the enemy's naval units dock.

Our shells pounded this center and devastated it over those who were inside it, and turned it into fire-consumed rabble.

The eagles' shells also hit the enemies' naval units which were present at the location and spread destruction among them.

After our eagles carried out this duty with their usual courage and well-known ability, they returned safely with their planes to the homeland. May you continue to carry out every honorable act, O loyal eagles.

O villainous Khomeynites, nothing will protect you now from God's will.

[Issued] on 19 February 1986.

Enemy Communications Plane Destroyed

GF191241 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1223 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Excerpt] A military spokesman has stated the following: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. While one of our planes was chasing the Khomeyniites in (Bahbahan) area 350 kilometers inside Iranian territory it discovered a huge enemy communications plane of the C-130 type that performs tasks similar to those of known AWACS plane as it carries similar communications equipment. Our plane directed its missiles which do not miss its target at it and turned it into splinters scattered in the air and returned to its base safely with God's protection.

Navy Dominates North Gulf

JN191244 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Umm Qasr, 19 Feb (INA) — An Iraqi naval commander has said that the Iraqi naval force is completely dominating the operational areas and the northern part of the Arab Gulf. Staff Captain Hamid Laftah Hawwaz, commander of the naval unit of Umm Qasr has challenged the Iranians to show any presence or role in the operational area or north of the Arab Gulf. He told the INA mission that the Iraqi naval force has waged a series of fierce battles with the enemy since the beginning of the recent aggression during which it sunk a number of Iranian ships and boats and effectively supported the Iraqi land forces which are tightening their siege around the Iranian aggressors.

Planes Raid Ganaveh, Military Camps

JN191145 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1120 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Since this morning, our heroic Air Force has been continuing its well-known strikes on the heads of the enemies, dismembering their remnants and destroying their vital installations, equipment, and weapons. Our Air Force men have accomplished the following:

1. At 0945 [0645 GMT] today, a devastating air strike was directed at the Khaneh military camp. Our eagles destroyed the camp's installations, wiped out the Khomeyniite remnants there, and set their ammunition and armament depots ablaze.

2. At 0949 today, our valiant eagles carried out a successful strike against the Jaldian military camp, inflicting massive losses on enemy constructions, equipment, and men, and leaving the enemy's ammunition and armament depots in flames.

3. At 1313 today, our planes carried out a new raid against the Ganaveh oil pipeline intersection, pounding their targets and setting them ablaze.

After carrying out all these missions, our Air Force eagles returned to their bases safe and triumphant, carrying news of victory to their great people.

Glory to you, O brave eagles. You have fulfilled your promise. You are the arm of Iraq, which reaches out to beat our enemies wherever they are.

[Dated] 19 February, 1986

New Drives Prepared at Al-Faw

JN190735 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 Feb 86

[By Usamah al-Salihi]

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Feb (INA) — As the Iraqi forces escalate their destructive strikes at the besieged Iranian troops on the Al-Faw front, the Iraqis are consolidating their new positions in preparation for new drives. Having crushed a series of Iranian attacks yesterday, the three Iraqi columns are advancing toward their targets with accuracy and coordination in order to tighten the siege around the Iranian forces from all sides.

Military sources here say that the current military efforts are aimed at directing a crushing, crippling, final blow against the Iranians in the positions they acquired after their new aggression. In his remarks to the newspaper *AL-THAWRAH*, Brigadier General 'Ali Jasim al-Hayyani, commander of the Muhammad al-Qasim Forces of the central column, gives a graphic picture of yesterday's battles when the Iranian command dispatched several brigades to attack the Iraqi columns, particularly the central column. The attack began at 2230 the previous night and was crushed by the Iraqi forces 1 hour after it began following fierce fighting. The Iranian forces returned again with large formations but the Iraqi forces fought them with immense strength from 0100 until 0400.

The Iraqi commander affirms that the Iranian losses were very grave, exceeding 1,200 dead and many more wounded and captured. The Iranians also lost weapons and engineering equipment. Iraqi television showed films of the massive Iranian losses and piles of dead Iranians. The battles show that the Iraqis were able to liberate new territory, which was an important defensive site for the Iranians along the coast and which will make it easy for the Iraqi forces to continue their drive in this straegic area.

The Iraqi naval forces are playing an effective role in supporting Iraqi units on the land, which are advancing to destroy the Iranian defenses and troop concentrations inside Iran as well as boats and supply ships north of the Arab Gulf.

As the weather improved today after yesterday's rain, the Iraqi Air Force began massive raids on advanced Iranian units and backup forces. Over the past days of fighting, the Iraqi pilots carried out 3,803 combat missions. They have now started dropping thousands of tons of explosives on Iranian forces, engineering efforts, and supply lines deep inside Iran.

While affirming its military power on the battlefield, Iraq has placed the international community represented by the United Nations before its responsibilities with the aim of ending the war, affirming UN responsibility as stipulated in the UN Charter. The UN Security Council has started its discussion of the Iranian aggression. By asking the international community to take a firm stand toward the repeated Iranian aggression, Iraq does not act from a position of weakness but from a position of strength, supported by international conventions and law. The United Nations and the Security Council are required to take a clear stand on this aggression, which aims at occupying the territory of a UN member state. Unless such a stand is taken, Iraq will not be committed to any action that does not aim at stopping the war and the 6-year aggression.

As the UN Security Council began its discussions, an Iraqi military spokesman said: We have absorbed the enemy offensive. We have limited enemy movement and paralyzed its combat ability.

We have begun to dislodge the enemy from its positions, inflicting on it unprecedented losses in the history of its aggression on Iraq with the result that it started retreating and withdrawing. We will soon bring news of decisive victory to the Iraqi people.

Iranian Appeals for Help Heard

JN171127 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1055 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Basra, 17 Feb (INA) — An INA mission in the Al-Faw operational area says that it heard appeals for urgent reinforcements by the besieged Iranian forces.

The mission said that Iraqi monitoring equipment recorded voice messages by Iranian soldiers informing their command that "The enemy is closing in on us." The command of one of Iran's formations urged replacing ambulance drivers because they are extremely exhausted after transferring great numbers of dead and wounded. The reply to this message was: "We have no more ambulances or drivers. There is no way to reach you because the Abadan-Bushehr road has been cut off."

A cable from an Iranian formation monitored by Iraqi devices said: "Our forces have collapsed and are destroyed. We face a disaster for which we have no solution. If we remain like this until nightfall, we will all perish. Please inform the big father to reach us as soon as possible."

Complaining that all his men had been killed, another officer says in his cable: "We need fighters, even if they are civilians. Send us reinforcements soonest."

A commander of another formation repeats appeals to his command saying: "The enemy is advancing determinedly toward us and we cannot resist it. All our boats have been sunk by the enemy."

This morning, the Iraqi assistant chief of staff said that the Iranian forces that crossed Shatt al-'Arab waterway can either surrender or perish.

Iran Reportedly Massing Troops

HK190514 Hong Kong AFP in English 0355 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Basra, Iraq, Feb 19 (afp) — Iran is massing troops for what could be a widespread new drive against Iraq, an Iraqi general said Tuesday night.

General Maher Abdel Rashid [name as received], commander of Iraq's third army, based northeast of here on the central front, told a news conference that the Iranian buildup was in the Khorramshar [place name as received] region and on the west bank of the Shatt al-'Arab waterway near the southeastern Iraqi port of Al-Faw. Iranian forces seized control of Al-Faw at the start of their latest offensive which began on February 9 when they stormed across Shatt al-'Arab, Iraq's narrow outlet to the Gulf.

Gen Rashid also said that his troops controlled 90 percent of the man-made Majnun [place name as received] Islands in the Hawiza [place name as received] Marhes further north, having repulsed an Iranian offensive there a week earlier. He said 8,000 Iranians died in the fighting.

Journalists who were brought from Baghdad to Basra earlier Tuesday could hear the sound of shelling some 50 kms (30 miles) southeast of the city in the Al-Faw area, the scene of bloody fighting since the start of the latest Iranian drive in the five-year-old war. On the way here from the Iraqi capital they saw long columns of Iraqi military vehicles carrying tanks and heading towards the front.

Iraq said Tuesday that its forces were advancing in a three-pronged attack on Iranian troops occupying the west bank of Shatt al-'Arab.

'Great Number' of Troops Captured

JN181020 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0938 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 18 Feb (INA) — The Iraqi forces captured a great number of Iranian troops at dawn today. Radio Baghdad interviewed these POW's who affirmed that the Iraqi planes and artillery are pursuing the Iranians everywhere. The radio said that groups of these POW's are being evacuated to the rear one after the other.

Communiques Issued on War Activities

No 2,120

JN171800 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Communique No 2,120 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 17 Feburary 1986]

[Excerpt] The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. Our brave columns in the VII Army Corps sector today continued their advance toward their fixed targets, supported by our heroic Air Force, our brave artillery men, the valiant helicopter gunship cavaliers, and the heroes of our powerful missile force. The northern column under the supervision of Staff Major General Rashshash Siyad Daghir and under the command of Staff Brigadier General Ahmad Ibrahim Hammash advanced 500 meters. This is the same distance lost in yesterday's fighting. The enemy sustained massive losses in defensive and offensive battles.

The central column under the supervision of Staff Lieutenant General Sa'di Tu'mah al-Juburi and under the command of Staff Brigadier General 'Ali Jasim al-Hayyani advanced 600 meters today, inflicting massive losses on enemy personnel and equipment.

The southern coastal column under the supervision of Staff Lieutenant General Hisham Sabah al-Fakhri and under the command of Staff Brigadier General Natiq Jasim continued its advance toward its targets with complte success, crushing enemy remnants and forcing the rest to retreat. The enemy forces opposite this column were completely destroyed or forced to flee and withdraw in disarray. An area 2 kilometers deep was liberated along this axis today.

The results of the battles waged at this front both yesterday and today affirm that the enemy has lost the initiative and is fighting a battle of retreat opposite our forces. As time passes the area in which the enemy is present becomes smaller, the grip imposed on it gets tighter, and further heavy losses are inflicted on its forces. This will be the case until the last inch is purged of its filth, with the help of God and the determination of zealous, loyal men.

2. Our gigantic Air Force has built and is building a splendid glory which generations will view with pride. History will record that eagles of the air and all our ground and sea fighters have opened the doors of freedom and foiled all the base attempts of Iraq's enemies. Last night and today our aircraft continued their fatal raids on enemy forces in their positions and concentrations, harvesting the heads of the Khomeyniites, destroying their equipment, and giving effective support to our ground forces' God-supported advance. Our planes carried out 363 combat missions, after which the eagles returned safely to base.

In addition to these combat missions, our Air Force achieved the following:

a. The destruction of the Ra's Abadan bridge.

b. The destruction of the Abadan-Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr] bridge.

c. The destruction of the bridge linking the roads of Sheykh Budayr and Ahvaz in the City of Abadan.

d. The destruction of the iron bridge in the abovementioned area in Abadan.

e. The destruction of the Chuyebdeh bridge.

f. The destruction of the Seyyen 'Abud bridge in the northeastern part of Abdan.

g. The destruction of eight enemy gunboats.

3. The hero cavaliers of the Army helicopter gunships are participating in this honorable battle with great efforts and heroic deeds which have had a tremendous effect on the progress of battles. These hero cavaliers are filling the battle skies with their aircraft, pursuing the enemy rogues and their equipment with rockets and machineguns, and killing the enemies of the homeland. They carried out 258 combat missions today and returned safely to base after achieving the following:

a. Dealing violent blows to several enemy infantry concentrations.

b. Destroying one tank and one armored personnel carrier.

c. Destroying one self-propelled gun.

d. Destroying one launcher and one vehicle.

4. The lions of the sea are reviving the glories of their forefathers in the Dhat al-Sawari battle [an old Islamic sea battle] and are breavely guarding Arab waters against every invader and criminal aggressor. They emphasize to the whole world that the Gulf will remain Arab in the hands of its sons and their faultless shells. Our naval force carried out the following tasks today:

A. Our Navy spotted a large military target north of the Nowruz oil field. The cavaliers of the Navy Air Force swooped down on it and managed to blow it up and sink it. They then returned safely to base, praised be to God.

B. Our gunboats spotted a large enemy hovercraft in the northern part of the Arab Gulf. They fired their missiles and managed to destroy it and sink it with all occupants.

5. The men of the heroic III Army Corps continue to inflict massive losses on our criminal enemy. Several enemy groups attempted to approach our forward positions in the heroic Al-Husayn Forces sector. Our fighters confronted them with all types of weapons, killing 200 enemy soldiers. Some 20 infantry positions were also destroyed in the same sector. The valiant Al-Miqdad Forces managed to kill 20 enemy soldiers and destroy 2 boats carrying personnel. Elsewhere in the same sector, one medium-caliber machinegun; three vehicles, one of which was loaded with personnel; two ammunition dumps; and one observation post were destroyed and five enemy soldiers were killed. Thus, the total number of personnel killed in the III Army Corps sector amounts to 225.

6. Our men in the VI Army Corps sector killed 10 enemy soldiers and destroyed 5 infantry positions, 1 machinegun emplacement, 1 observation post, and 1 vehicle.

7. At 1350 [1050 GMT] today an enemy F-5 plane tried to penetrate our international border in the VII Army Corps sector. Our brave air defensemen intercepted it and succeeded in shooting it down with God's help.

All glory to you, O men. You have recorded the strongest and most honorable of epics, God bless you. It is God who grants you success. He is the best helper.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 February 1986

No 2,121

IN181836 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Communique No 2,121 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 18 February 1986]

[Excerpt] The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. Our criminal enemy in the VII Army Corps front is now staggering, thanks to successive blows by our valiant forces, and is futilely seeking to extricate itself from the deadend. The following was achieved yesterday evening and today:

A. Our three columns, the northern, central, and southern, aborted a series of desperate enemy attempts to approach our positions and to lift the siege imposed on its remnants who are cornered between Iraqi firepower and the water. All enemy attempts were repulsed in a humiliating manner. The enemy sustained very heavy losses in life and equipment, particularly opposite the heroic 5th Division and the forces supporting it in the area of the central column. Opposite this column alone, 1,280 were killed and large numbers were taken prisoner yesterday evening.

B. After crushing these enemy attempts, our forces resumed their advance toward their set targets this morning. The heroic southern column succeeded in penetrating enemy positions, in purging the land of its filth to a distance of 2.5 km, in forcing the enemy forces to withdraw in disarray, and in inflicting on the enemy forces heavy losses in life and equipment.

As for the central column, we will provide you with the results of its activities later.

With respect to the northern column, its only task today was to entrench its postiions and to engage enemy forces in battle and destroy them.

Blessed be the men in the VII Army Corps front. Proceed with further offerings until we liberate the last inch of our land from the filthy aggressors. Victory is close, God willing.

2. The heroic helicopter gunship knights continue to impose their control on the battlefield and to pursue the retreating enemy forces, inflicting losses in life, equipment, and military hardware. The helicopter gunship knights carried out 98 combat sorties today during which they provided our ground forces in the VII Army Corps front with effective support and destroyed many enemy troop concentrations. After carrying out their duty, they safely returned to their bases, praise be to God. Blessed be your hands, O hero helicopter gunship knights.

3. With God's help and the ever-increasing determination of the brave men of the Navy, a large enemy troop ship has been destroyed. The ship, which the enemy was using to bring reinforcements to its collapsing units, was blown up at 1550 today. Blessed be the brave men of the Navy.

4. The brave men of the III Army Corps killed 18 enemy troops, set 1 vehicle and 1 ammunition dump on fire, and destroyed 1 (FBJ-9) gun and 1 mortar position whose occupants were killed. In the II Army Corps sector, two infantry positions were destroyed. One mortar position was destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector and its occupants were killed.

5. The brave men of our ground resistance shot down two enemy planes over the VII Army Corps front. The first, an F-4, was shot down at 1220, and the second, an F-5, was shot down at 1300 today. Thus, a total of 10 planes have been shot down since the night of 9-10 February — 8 fighter planes and 2 helicopters. O brave soldiers of truth, deal more blows. God will grant us victory over the unjust clique.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 February 1986

King Husayn Receives U.S. Senator Mathias

JN161854 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon U.S. Senator Charles Mathias, who is currently visiting Jordan.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Prince Hasan, Al-Rifa'i Receive Senator

JN161307 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Amman —His Highness Crown Prince Hasan received in his office this morning U.S. Senator Charles Mathias, who is currently visiting Jordan. They reviewed the situation in the Middle East in general and the situation in the occupied Arab territories in particular. The U.S. ambassador in Amman attended the meeting.

Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received Mr Mathias in his office this morning. They reviewed the latest developments of the Middle East issue and efforts being exerted to bring about a just and lasting solution to the Palestine question within the framework of an international conference to be attended by all parties to the conflict and with the participation of the permanent UN Security Council member states.

The U.S. ambassador in Amman attended the meeting.

King Husayn Receives U.S. Representative Wilson

JN171444 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1423 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Amman, 17 Feb (PETRA) — His Majesty King Husayn received U.S. Representative Charles Wilson at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon.

Attending the meeting were Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Prime Minister Receives Representative

JN171310 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Amman — Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received U.S. Representative Charles Wilson, who is currently visiting Jordan, at his office this morning. They reviewed the situation in the region in general and ways to find a just and permanent solution to the Middle East problem within the framework of an international conference to be attended by all parties to the conflict in the area and by the five permanent members of the Security Council. The meeting was attended by the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Prime Minister Al-Rifa'i Reiterates Support for Iraq

JN181437 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i has said that Iraq is now waging an honorable battle in defense of its sacred soil and the entire Arab nation. The Iraq Army is daily recording a new epic of heroic deeds and sacrifices. In a speech delivered in a House of Representatives session this morning presided over by Speaker 'Akif al-Fayiz and attended by ministers, the prime minister added: As you know, Jordan under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn has stood alongside Iraq since the first day of the Iranian regime's aggression more than 5 years ago. This has not changed or altered. God willing, this will not change or alter. This is the most basic duty and this is what is required by Arabism, Islam, and pan-Arab commitment.

Commenting on a number of representatives' speeches praising Iraq's heroic position, the prime minister said that the duty of Arabs and Muslims is to adopt a unified stand vis-a-vis the Iranian regime and its aggression against Arabs and Muslims and not just against Iraq. The prime minister said that His Majesty King Husayn is in continuous contact with his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and that the situation on the front, praise be to God, is reassuring. The valiant Iraqi Army succeeded in containing the offensive. God willing, we will all celebrate with fraternal Iraq — president, Army, and people — in repulsing and eliminating the aggressors and putting an end to this destructive war as soon as possible.

A number of representatives spoke at the beginning of the session on the recent aggression against fraternal Iraq. They praised the pan-Arab stands of His Majesty King Husayn, who placed all of Jordan's potentials and resources at fraternal Iraq's disposal at the beginning of the Iranian aggression. The representatives condemned this aggression, which is aimed at fraternal Iraq's territory. They appealed to the Arab nation to stand alongside Iraq to enable it to repulse the aggression in implementation of the Collective Arab Defense Pact.

The session was attended by Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, head of the Arab and international relations committee of the Iraqi National Assembly, and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

Libyan Support of Iranian Aggression Condemned

JN181241 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Amman — Acting Foreign Minister Hazim Nusaybah today issued the following statement:

The Jordanian Government has studied the Libyan-Iranian joint statement which was broadcast in Tehran and Tripoli the day before yesterday regarding the Iraq-Iran war, which included the flagrant Libyan support for the criminal Iranian aggression on the people, territory, and honor of Iraq. The Jordanian Government, the Jordanian people, and the Arab nation in all its countries and states, who are proudly following the heroic and honorable battles being waged by their kinfolk and righteous brothers on the great Arab homeland's eastern flank, who are sacrificing all that is dear to them for the sake of defending their sacred homeland, its Arabism, dignity, and the security of the entire Arab homeland — express their deep astonishment at and strong deunciation and condemnation of the Libyan stand.

The Jordanian Government seizes this historic opportunity in the history of our nation and the struggle of the hero Iraqi brothers to reiterate its full support for and pride in Arab Iraq, and its belief in Iraq's inevitable victory over the criminal aggression against it and the entire Arab nation.

Foreign Ministry Complains to UN on Fighting in South

NC181307 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Lebanon today submitted a complaint to the UN Security Council on the events in the south. Lebanon reserved the right to call a Security Council meeting. The Foreign Ministry sent messages to the president of the Security Council and to the UN secretary general. Ambassador Rashid Fakhuri, Lebanon's permanent ambassador to the United Nations, will deliver these messages.

President al-Jumayyil, who is in Paris, is in contact with the Foreign Ministry to follow the developments in the south.

Birri Calls for 'Unconditional' Israeli Withdrawal

NC182033 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Feb 86

[News conference held by Nabih Birri, minister of state for the south and reconstruction, in Beirut on 18 February — recorded]

[Excerpts][Birri] On the anniversary of the martyrdom of Shaykh Raghib Harb, I congratulate the group of the martyr shaykh on the heroic deed it performed within the border strip yesterday. Indeed, this action is seen as a real intensification and a tangible instance of progress in the operations of the National Resistance. Israel has used this deed as an excuse to attack and enter cities and villages in the south. This is a desperate and miserable attempt by Israel to sow the seeds of discord between the National Resistance and the inhabitants of the south. Israel forgets, or disregards, the fact that this resistance is not imported — it belongs to the people and springs from their midst. The people of the south and their resistance have answered this attempt at sowing dissension by their magnificent opposition to the forces of the new invasion in Haris, Kafra, Sribbin, Haddathah, Shaqra, Al-Sultaniyah, Jsir al-Qa'qa'iyah, Burj Qalaway, and Al-Ghanduriyah.

Once again, let Israel know that the only solution lies in its unconditional and total withdrawal, along with its agents, from all Lebanese territory, in accordance with Security Council resolution 425, which provides for the deployment of UNIFIL as far as the border. This resistance was not created to remain behind its border. This resistance is not foreign to the people. We challenge Israel, as we challenged it a year or more ago, to stay in the south and in the areas that it is trying to re-enter now. Israel's purpose has become known. It wants to maintain full control of all routes that would permit it to steal the waters of south Lebanon. Israel, which created a schism in 1978 between some of the misled agents and the rest of the people, is now trying to create a wider human and geographical schism. We shake the hands of those who now stand to challenge and confront the treacherous enemy.

[Question] Your Excellency the Minister. [words indistinct] do you expect a further Israeli escalation in light of this fait accompli?

[Birri] There are hundreds of Lebanese captives. Why then are we asked only about two Israeli captives and not about the hundreds of our captives in the Al-Khiyam and elsewhere? The whole south, indeed, is captive. The reasons for the capture of the two Israelis are Israel's stubbornness and the fact that it is still in the south despite having announced its withdrawal from south Lebanon. If it has really withdrawn from south Lebanon, then why were these two captives taken in Bayt Yahun township, which is more than 15 km away from the Lebanese-Palestinian border?

[Question] Is this operation in retaliation for the capture of the two Israeli soldiers, or is it connected with current developments?

[Birri] I have answered this question by saying that this is a pretext; Israel's main objective is to try to sow discord between the inhabitants of the south and the resistance. In other words, Israel is trying to tell the people in its own way that had it not been for such operations, the new incursion would have not taken place.

[Question] Do you expect this escalation in the south to have an effect on internal developments?

[Birri] When Amin al-Jumayyil relied on the United States and consequently on Israel in his attempt to foil the tripartite agreement, he was aware that Israel could exert pressure in south Lebanon. What has happened and is happening now is part of this plan and it is a very important message, particularly to the national forces, which abrogated the 17 May agreement.

[Question] [indistinct]

[Birri] UNIFIL is not there to protect Israel but to protect the people of the south. It is a protective force that has been prevented from implementing Security Council Resolution 425. UNIFIL represents the international will and not the will of Israel. It is only Israel that is preventing UNIFIL from deploying everywhere. Consequently, Israel is responsible for all that has happened and all that will happen.

[Question] As is to be expected, Israel is carrying out new actions and new aggressions and it is using new methods. Are there any plans to strengthen the National Resistance so that it may confront these new methods?

[Birri] The truth is that we have learned a lesson from this new invasion. We will soon study all practical ways of strengthening the resistance to prevent the recurrence of such an invasion, or at least to make it costly. I will not add to this.

[Question] [indistinct]

[Birri] Our orders are clear. They stipulate that every manifestation of the Israeli presence must be resisted. Today's operation came as absolutely no surprise to us. As I said, we challenge [Israel] to stay in any part of our land.

[Question] Will you make any moves on the diplomatic level?

[Birri] We have started to do so. We have seen some ambassadors and will see others.

[Question] [indistinct]

[Birri] We have seen nothing.

Reports on 'Battles' in South, Captured Israelis

'Pitched Battles' in Villages

NC181437 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1409 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] We have just been informed by our correspondents in the south that pitched battles have been taking place in the townships of Srifa and Sil'a. The inhabitants of these townships and men of the resistance have been fighting the Israeli invading forces since 1500. A UNIFIL source reports that scores of vehicles are taking part in the invasion and raids of the southern villages; namely, Srifa and Sil'a. UNIFIL official spokesman Timor Goksel stated this afternoon that the Israelis may withdraw today from the liberated areas, which they had reentered.

Resistance Threatens Settlements

NC181537 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Excerpts] According to our correspondents in the south, Israeli military vehicles entered the northern part of Haris at 1630 this afternoon. There is intensive enemy helicopter activity over Haris and along the Haris-Haddathah Road and Haris-Tibnin Road lines. The Israeli forces had earlier left Haris. Some proceeded toward Haddathah township, while others entered the township of Tibnin. A third group went to Dayr Mtar township. In a statement issued today, the Lebanese National Resistance warned that it will continue to shell settlements far from the border if the Israeli forces do not withdraw.

3 Israelis Said Killed

NC181557 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1415 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] The Lebanese National Resistance issued the following statement this afternoon: At exactly 2300 last night, the martyr Hijaz al-Hijazi group of the National Resistance ambushed an Israeli intelligence patrol on the Wadi al-Hujayr bridge. The patrol consisted of three civilian cars. The group fired at the vehicles and a 30-minute clash ensued. One car was burned with three intelligence men inside it. The group returned safely to base.

'Islamic Resistance' on Fighting

NC181630 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1405 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] The Islamic Resistance issued a statement a short while ago, which said: After fighters from the Islamic Resistance carried out a daring operation in Kunin that led to the death of six elite enemy soldiers and the capture of two officers, who have been taken to a safe place and are receiving medical treatment, the enemy became hysterical. Gripped by panic, he massed large forces and invaded our peaceful and resisting villages. However, in the wake of their great operation, Islamic Resistance fighters have continued to confront the attacking forces and to inflict the most painful of blows. Soon will the unjust assailants know what vicissitudes their affairs will take [Koranic verse]. The following heroic battles took place between 1900 last night and 1130 this morning:

An Islamic Resistance group intercepted an Israeli convoy on the Shaqra Road at 1900. Our forces damaged a tracked vehicle, killing all those aboard. The Islamic Resistance will continue to combat Israeli aggression.

At 0045 last night, a second group in Kunin detonated an explosive charge at an Israeli enemy assembly point, causing a large number of Israeli casualties.

The statement from the Islamic Resistance then described every phase of yesterday's operations, adding: At approximately 0800 today, Tuesday 18 February, we received information that enemy vehicles and infantry had deployed on the approaches to Haris and Kafra, and were moving toward Sribbin. The reports said three enemy helicopters had flown over Al-Shihabiyah as part of a thorough search operation. Vehicles were seen advancing toward the village in an attempt to reinforce the enemy's positions.

At approximately 0900, Islamic Resistance fighters downed an enemy helicopter on the outskirts of Srifa. All the enemy soldiers aboard were killed. Three of our strugglers were slightly wounded, and they were taken to hospitals for treatment. In the meantime, resistance fighters clashed with enemy units in Srifa and Qalaway. They also engaged Israeli planes over Al-Nabatiyah, Zawtar, and Al-Qa'iyah. The aircraft dropped leaflets, the contents of which are not yet known. The planes are using heavy fire to strafe roads between the villages.

At approximately 0910, the attacking Zionist forces tried to land troops between Qalaway and Srifa, but were foiled by our Islamic fighters. As a result of this heroic opposition, the Islamic resistance suffered several casualties, who have been transferred to the Jabal 'Amil Hospital in Tyre for treatment.

Our comrades in the faithful resistance managed to hit two Israeli boats off the coast of Tyre at approximately 0915. At approximately 1055, Israeli warplanes came in low over the city of Tyre. They were fired on by ground defense forces, and were compelled to fly at a high altitude. Our fighters report that Israeli gunboats have been on constant patrol since yesterday.

At approximately 1100, helicopters flew over the township of Dayr Kifa, and our heroes engaged them. At approximately 1115, enemy warplanes flew over Srifa to support an advancing motorized unit. The Islamic fighters who opposed the enemy's attacking forces managed to damage a vehicle in Bra'shit. One member of the resistance was wounded; he is being treated and his condition is good.

At 1130, a number of Israeli tank columns entered Srifa. Large groups of fighters from the Islamic and faithful resistance rushed to surround their attackers, and they are now using various types of weapons against them.

The Islamic Resistance has also monitored the establishment of an Israeli roadblock in Kafr Dunin.

Hizballah To Publish Photos

NC181757 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1730 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] A responsible source in Hizballah has announced that the two Israeli prisoners captured yesterday are receiving treatment for their wounds. He added that Hizballah will release their names and publish their pictures and photos of their identity cards.

The source called on all fighters to go to southern Lebanon, which is the true proving ground for everyone seeking liberation, confrontation, and faith.

The source was speaking to the PRESS NEWS AGENCY. He declared: We will not forfeit our right to call those who killed one of our comrades on Sunday to account. This will be done without fomenting sedition.

'Explosion' of Israeli Warship

NC182046 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Statement issued by the Amal movement leadership on 18 February; place not given]

[Text] The leadership of Amal declares that the movement's forces are resisting the Israelis everywhere, and have prevented them from entering a single village. In addition to an undetermined number of enemy casualties, today's fighting resulted in the downing of a helicopter between Srifa and Dayr Kifa, the explosion of a warship off Al-Naqurah, and the destruction of a tank and its crew in the Kafr Yunin Triangle.

The morale of the Amal forces is very high, and they continue to check the enemy's attempts to advance. The battles are still raging.

Beirut Radio Roundup of Fighting

NC181855 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Our latest information from the south indicates that the [Israeli] occupation forces have withdrawn from the town of Dayr Kifa after arresting the following three citizens: Muhammad Nasrallah, Mahmud Hasan 'Ilayan, and Muhsin 'Ilayan. According to the same reports, Husayn 'Abd al-Nabi led a group of his fellow agents into Majdal Silm at around 1700. They searched and looted homes before arresting eight people and moving on toward Dayr Ntar.

Other reports from the area state that UNIFIL's Ghanian contingent used its own buses to transport a number of people from Kafr Kunin to its positions in the region.

An explosive charge went off this afternoon in Qalaway while an enemy patrol was passing. A number of enemy soldiers were either killed or wounded. Fighting erupted in B'ir al-Salasil pitting local residents and the members of resistance groups against the crews of enemy vehicles. Two such vehicles were destroyed, and another was burned at the entrance to [word indistinct].

Israeli gunboats continue to roam off the southern coast between Al-Zahrani and Tyre.

Members of the resistance fired dozens of rockets at the Upper Galilee region. They also shelled the Sribbin-[word indistinct] position.

Israeli warplanes conducted mock raids at noon all along the coastal road between Al-Naqurah and Abu al-Aswad, while military pressure on the Srifa-Burj Qalaway combat line became intense. However, as a result of the heroic opposition, the enemy was forced to pull out of Al-Shihabiyah and Sil'a, and to retire to the nearby hills. At noon, we received word that motorized units were advancing on the towns of Srifa and Al-Ghanduriyah. There was fierce fighting on the Srifa-Burj Qalaway-Dayr Kifa front, and the occupation forces, which used tanks and helicopters, managed to enter Dayr Kifa.

Our correspondents in the south have informed us that Israeli military vehicles have been deployed since 1630 today on the northern side of Haris, while enemy helicopters conducted an extensive series of sorties over the town and reconnoitered the Haris-Haddathah and Haris-Tibnin roads. The enemy had already withdrawn from Haris; some of his units went to Haddathah, while others entered Tibnin or headed toward Dayr Ntar.

At 0925 today, enemy planes dropped leaflets on the towns that have been the scenes of fighting asking their inhabitants not to get in the way of the occupation troops. The leaflets were signed by Israeli General Ori Or, commander of the so-called Northern Sector.

Verified reports state that members of the resistance fired 107-mm rockets at enemy convoys between Bi'r al-Salasil and Al-Qantarah. In addition, they detonated a number of explosive charges under a military convoy on the Al-Qantarah-Al-Ghanduriyah Road and under a similar column on the Hula-Shaqra Road. [words indistinct] group of tanks and trucks between Al-Ghanguriyah and Al-Shihabiyah. One truck was destroyed, but the number of casualties could not be determined.

Information from the battlefield indicates that military helicopters destroyed two private cars filled with retreating civilians near Bi'r al-Salasil.

'Resistance Front' Communiques

NC190658 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0530 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] The Resistance Front has released three communiques on its group's operations. The first communique says that early today a resistance group, after a 30-minute clash, repulsed an attempt by a Zionist force to advance from Shihin toward Majdal Jun. As a result of the clash, columns of fire were seen rising from two M-13 APC's. agent Lahd radio admitted that the operation took place on the outskirts of Shihin at approximately 0230.

The second communique notes that a group of strugglers shelled the Jewish settlement (Jardish) in occupied Palestine at 0100 today. Israeli radio admitted the shelling this morning, but made no mention of casualties.

A third communique says that despite the Zionist enemy's columns of tanks, warplanes, and gunboats, a resistance group early today carried out a two-pronged operation. This group pounded both the El-Mansura settlement, which is deep inside the occupied Palestinian territory, and the artillery emplacements on Jabal Basil. This operation resulted in enemy losses, which the enemy radio did not mention.

Jewish Hostage Reported Killed

NC190755 Paris AFP in English 0750 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Beirut, Feb 19 (AFP) — A Jewish hostage has been killed in Lebanon in retaliation for security raids in the south of the country by Israeli troops looking for two captured soldiers, the "Organization of the World's Oppressed" which claimed the abduction said here today.

Professor Eli Hallaq, vice-president of the Higher Council of the Jewish Community in Lebanon, was kidnapped in mainly Moslem West Beirut on March 30 of last year. Four other Jews were kidnapped around the same time.

A communique by the group published in the Lebanese daily *AN-NAHAR*, together with a polaroid photograph, accused Mr. Hallaq of being a member of the Israeli intelligence service Mossad.

It said that "the execution of this spy is a response to the terrorist operations carried out by Israel against oppressed villages in south Lebanon."

'Fierce' Fighting in South

NC190820 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0800 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] We received the following security report a short while ago: The Israeli forces, which were deployed throughout the night in Ruwaysat Nahlah, south of Haris, have again stormed the southern outskirts of Haris. These forces are searching houses, as helicopters make overflights and two Merkava tanks patrol the town. Fierce fighting is currently raging along the Dayr Kifa-Srifa-Al-Ghanduriyah combat lines.

Hizballah Sends More Gunmen

NC190834 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0815 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Reports indicate that Hizballah is sending more gunmen to the confrontation lines in the south, with support from pro-'Arafat Palestinian groups, particularly those in the 'Ayn al-Hilwah camp, where arms are being distributed to the Hizballah gunmen.

Israeli Gunboats Off Coast

NC190940 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0900 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Israeli occupation forces continue to comb through houses, causing further destruction and ruin. According to the latest reports from the south, since early in the day Israeli helicopters have been conducting searches in B'ir al-Salasil, Al-Ghandiriyah, and Frun. Israeli gunboats are still roaming off the shore from north of Sidon to south of Tyre. It has been reported that the National Resistance is maintaining high efficiency and morale in its strong defense.

Israeli Helicopters Land Troops

NC191023 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1006 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] We have just received reports from the south indicating that Israeli helicopters carried out a landing operation in the outskirts of Srifa at 1000 today. Other enemy aircraft have reconnoitered the area. Israeli vehicles under the command of an intelligence force were spotted advancing toward Srifa, Frun, and Al-Ghanduriyah.

Demonstrations in West Beirut Against Israel

NC191024 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
0945 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] This morning in West Beirut demonstrators protested Israeli operations. The march began in the areas of 'A'ishah Bakkar, Al-Hamra, Al-Zarif, and Burj Abu Haydar and headed in the direction of Minister Nabih Birri's house on Barbur Street. During the demonstrations, a number of gunmen, some of whom have threatened to close schools by force, had many disputes.

Palestinian Group Threatens Spanish Targets

NC181306 Paris AFP in English 1258 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Beirut, Feb 18 (AFP) — A Palestinian group today threatened to attack Spanish targets if two Palestinian prisoners held in Spain were not released within a fortnight. The group calling itself the organization of the sons of the martyrs of Tall al-Za'tar made the warning in a communique broadcast on the Arab language Voice of the Homeland radio in mainly Moslem West Beirut.

The organization is named after a Palestinian refugee camp which was overrun by Christian militia in 1976 with the loss of some 1,600 lives. It warned it would "retaliate" against Spanish interests in Spain and abroad unless the two prisoners, Khadir Jabir and Muhammad 'Ali Sharar, were released.

A Spanish diplomat in Amman said the two were students in Spain and had been arrested after two Israeli soldiers were murdered in Barcelona last October.

Hostages Freed

NC191212 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1203 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] We have just been informed that three hostages were released a short while ago. These are two Lebanese and a Spanish national. The three were taken to the residence of Minister Nabih Birri, who immediately handed them over to the Spanish ambassador in Beirut.

Army Repulses Infiltration Attempt in Al-Matn

NC181608 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1515 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] The Lebanese Army has repulsed an attempt by gunmen to infiltrate into the cemetery area on the Al-'Ayrun-al-Dawwar combat line. Our correspondent reports from there that since 1650 the Al-'Ayrun-al-Dawwar line has been the scene of clashes in which all types of weapons are being used. Mortar exchanges have also been taking place. Our correspondent adds that tension on this combat line is still high. The 'Ayn al-Tuffahah-Mar Ilyas-Shwayya combat line came under attack from heavy machineguns at 1630. Mortars and anti-tank shells were fired before the clashes abated at 1700.

Paris Daily Interviews AL-Asad on Regional Issues

JN181822 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Feb 86

["Text" of interview with President Hafiz al-Asad by chief editor Serge July and Middle East department chief Mrs Josette Garcon of the Paris newspaper *Liberation*, published on 14 February 1986]

[Text] Question: You intervened in Lebanon for the first time in 1975 and suggested changing the constitution. Now, 11 years later, what result have you reached, and what is Syria's role" Many matters have not changed.

Al-Asad: The story of Lebanon is a long one. If we want to talk about all that has taken place since 1975, we will spend a great deal of time.

We entered in Lebanon in 1976 in response to many pressing requests by Lebanese officials — deputies and ministers — as well as by citizens in many villages and cities. Those people called for help to mitigiate the pain from which they were suffering at that time — pain from sieges, killings, highway robberies, and otehr actions. Since that time, we have always believed that we entered Lebanon to help the Lebanese, not to replace them. We have always stood alongisde the party, the group, the faction, and the personalities that support and work for peace. Consequently, we stood against the other parties in order to force them to the position of those working to achieve national peace. We never thought of chamioning one party over another.

After entering Lebanon we stopped the civil war and achieved security there. We would like here to mention that individual actions took place here and there because everyone was armed and the state had no control over the situation. It is natural to see more individual actions than in otehr countries. We have always believed that we achieved the objective of our entry after a short time there. We achieved our objective: security. We believe that this first objective, which we achieved, is the basic precondition to achieving national peace. We also believe that our role in the stage of achieving national peace is diferent from our role in the stage of achieving security. In the stage of security, we achieved security with our forces, but in the stage of peace we constitute a helping factor, and the Lebanese parties should deal with each other and hold dialogues to search for peace. These parties have social, political, and cultural issues and they themselves should reach agreement on their differences.

Our role is to prompt all parties to agree on common points. Our role here is to help. The basic role related to agreeing on common points and to endorsing this agreement should be played by the parties. At this stage we should take into consideration the widespread foreign interference. Undoubtedly, that interference played an important role in preventing the Lebanese from achieving peace.

However, this does not free Lebaense officials from their responsibility for the continuation of the deteriorating situation. They themselves contributed to creating an atmosphere that encouraged foreign hostile forces, particularly Israel, to interefere in Lebanese internal affairs and to maintain instability there.

Anyone acquainted with our efforts and statements since 1976 knows that the only path to save Lebanon and the Lebaense is dialogue and accord.

Garcon: For months Syria has been exerting every effort to hold a dialogue and reach understanding among the Lebanese. But following the signing of the tripartite agreement, which was called the Damscus agreement, several Lebanese sides rejected it. Why did they reject it and what is the current situation with regard to this agreement?

Al-Asad: Before answering this question, I would like to add the following to my previous answer: The failure of many Lebanese sides in Lebanon to achieve peace did not make us abandon Lebanon. We have continued our efforts and our human and economic sacrifices to help Lebanon achieve peace. Although we could not achieve peace, for which we have done much in past years, we did manage to alleviate much of the suffering and to keep the channels of communication open among the different parties.

The situation in Lebanon is bad, but there is no doubt that if Syria had not helped Lebanon the situation there would have been much more worse. It is noteworthy that nobody in the world wanted or could extend assistance to Lebanon similar to that extended by Syria. Many of Lebanon's friends, who wanted to help, made efforts at different times, but these efforts were limited and could not reach the point of the economic, human, and political sacrifices, which we can describe as important. Syria made unique and rare sacrifices for the sake of Lebanon.

Let us go back to Mrs Garcon's question. There is no doubt that this question should be posed to those who did not approve the agreement. We can say that we previously managed to hold meetings between Lebanese politicians and the warring parties in Geneva and Lausanne. During those meeting, a number of those politicians reiterated that they did not represent Lebanon; only the fighters in Lebanon represented it. In Geneva and Lausanne they reached some points of agreement, but they could not implement these points because of the fighters on the ground, as they put it. I say that in Geneva and Lausanne they agreed on some points, but could not reach a full agreement that could achieve complete peace in Lebanon. Even these points on which they agreed were not implemented. We tried to secure a meeting of the warring parties. This is what has happened over the past months.

We managed to hold a meeting of the warring militia leaders. Many meetings were held among them, and the politicians also gave their opinions during these meetings. They followed up the meetings, contacted the various parties, and gave their opinions. We in Syria also met and contacted these politicians in order to put them in the picture of the meetings and to acquaint ourselves with their opinion about what was taking place.

The most important thing is that the fighters reached an agreement. This was very important because, in addition to the constructive ideas contained in the agreement, it was an agreement among those directly fighting on the ground. It was also important because in the end a large number of politicians and national personalities agreed on it.

We can say that all Lebanese parties, except a very few, participated in the agreement. The National Alliance Front agreed on it. That front consists of the largest number of parties in Lebanon. It consists of the Progressive Socialist Party, the Amal movement, the Lebanese Communist Party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the National Syrian Social Party, and a number of other national parties. The agreement was also accepted by a number of former and present ministers, former prime ministers, the present prime minister, a number of Muslim and Christian national personalities, former President Sulayman Franjiyah, and the Lebanese forces. But the Phalange Party leadership did not agree on it. President Amin al-Jumayyil is a member of the Phalange Party Political Bureau. Therefore, we can say that the majority of the Lebanese have agreed on the tripartite agreement.

It is not easy to talk about or define what those who rejected the agreement are hiding. Those who rejected the agreement did not specifically tell us what it is they reject. The talk was general, and this general talk appeared to be a rejection of the whole agreement. It was a rejection of all sections of the agreement.

We had hoped that the dialogue and rejection were political. The matter would have been simpler and better for Lebanon and for its advance toward peace. However, developments became tragic, especially in so-called East Beirut. I mean within the Lebanese forces and between these Forces and the Phalangists.

Since the agreement was signed, we have opposed violence. I say this because those who signed the agreement should have been able to implement it immediately. Our responsibility may be that we prevented this. I mean it appeared as if we gave an opportunity to those who wanted to carry out actions that would change the situation in Lebanon on the ground not in favor of the agreement. We have been told that the eastern area paid the price of these developments in about 600 killed. Of course, the 600 killed have not achieved a solution in Lebanon. On the contrary, they opened the path for more killings among themselves.

In any case, our viewpoint now is that the agreement, without paying attention to the small details — the agreement, in its ideas and outlines, will remain the only door for the Lebanese to achieve peace.

The situation in Lebanon now is no longer as it was in previous years. In the past a number of parties were able at various times to show that the fighting was between Muslims and Christians. The matter now is not so. Various Lebanese parties, personalities, and groups from various Lebanese factions stand in one front while a small group is standing in another position. Therefore, it is difficult to say that the fighting is between Muslims and Christians.

Certainly, in this world there will remain people, newspapers, countries that will talk in this language, but the situation on the ground is not so.

Syria will continue to stop violence even though it is between large and small factions, as it is doing now. This does not mean that Syria's efforts will keep the situation in Lebanon unresolved. We cannot completely prevent others from carrying out any actions.

Question: Is President al-Jumayyil still your primary official party in dialogue? Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam said that there will be no 12th or 13th summit. Will you alter this situation a bit? Will there be a meeting?

Al-Asad: We should warn that the agreement is not between Syria and Lebanon or between Syria and one or more parties in Lebanon. The agreement is among the Lebanese, and Syria helped in achieving it. The other point is that the agreement does not express the viewpoint of any party in Lebanon separately. In other words, the agreement does not represent the complete conviction of any Lebanese party. It is a compromise among the warring parties. The agreement does not represent Syria's viewpoint. If we were asked to lay down an ideal solution as we see it in Syria, we would have a solution that is completely different from this agreement. If the Lebanese parties were asked to find a formula, each would propose a different formula. Therefore, the agreement is not ours or the agreement of any Lebanese party. Our role was to assemble them and urge each party to take a step toward the other party.

Question: Therefore, what is the future of relations between you and President al-Jumayyil? Will you continue your support for him as you did in past years?

Al-Asad: We supported him and we will continue to do so so long as he is a factor to achieve accord among the Lebanese. If the contrary happens, we will be observers.

Quesiton: Mr President, you said that this agreement is not yours, nor is it an ideal in your opinion. Is it a factional agreement? Syria is a secular country and you exerted great efforts to reach secularism in Lebanon. Does this mean that you do not agree on the context of the agreement as it was presented?

Al-Asad: We agree on this agreement because we take into consideration the current circumstances through which Lebanon is passing and the situation created by the past circumstances in Lebanon. I mean the aftermath of independence. We believe that the agreement is good in terms of what is possible. It provides a good thing for the future and stops the bloodshed. We base our belief on the fact that life is not rigid and the process of development is not limited. Time is moving, human needs are moving, and human aspirations to a better future are continuous.

Here is an example: We, in Syria, oppose a sectarian regime. We believe that the cancellation of sectarianism in Leabnon is an important and useful matter for Lebanon. If the matter were completely in my hands, we would say right now that sectarianism is canceled in Lebanon.

In light of the dimensions and justifications which I have mentioned, we believe that this is not the best possible thing. We pushed each party toward the other. One party wants to cancel sectarianism directly but the other may not want to cancel it. They have reached a half-way position in accordance with which sectarianism will be canceled graudually through the Chamber of Deputies. This point may provide an idea of all articles of the agreement. This point in particular does not completely express any party's viewpoint separately. Therefore, they reached a compromise.

Question: If all chances for negotiations fail, do you expect Syrian military intervention?

Al-Asad: We do not intend to intervene. In the past, we intervened to stop fighting among people. It is correct that our forces were forced to defend themselves in the face of some militias, but they were not a party. In the future, if they do not reach a solution, we will stop our intervention to stop the fighting. This is what our stand will be. We believe that the sides and parties which support accord are the stronger.

Question: Do you still consider President al-Jumayyil a factor of accord and understanding in Lebanon, or has he become a factor of fragmentation?

Al-Asad: I do not express my opinion on any particular person. Whenever he talks to me, I will talk with him as the president of the republic. We stood by him strongly in the past stage. In the past stage, he used to talk about accord. While others never agreed that Shaykh al-Jumayyil would be a factor of accord, we disagreed with them on this.

We can only say that his stand in recent days and since the signing the agreement was not positive or constructive to achieve peace in Lebanon. We do not believe that this stand is an objective vis-a-vis the needs of the Lebanese people. In any case, we are not the ones who will tackle this matter, particularly through violence. We believe that our role in Lebanon is summarized in two matters: First, to mitigate violence in the service of peace; second, to help in achieving peace.

Question: Is there a date for an expected meeting with President al-Jumayyil?

Al-Asad: No, the matter is not being raised now by the Syrians or Lebanese.

Question: Mr President, most of the Lebanese parties oppose President al-Jumayyil, and Syria's allies are calling for his resignation. You have said that in the past you always supported Lebanese legitimacy and that you still support it. President al-Jumayyil naturally represents this legitimacy. Does this support mean that you do not want to bypass some red lines drawn by Western countries, particularly the United States, France, and the Vatican?

Al-Asad: In fact, our support for legitimacy or for others is not linked at all to any red line, except the red line which is linked to Lebanese accord and peace. We behaved on this basis, and on this basis we will behave in the future. This line which is linked to accord will achieve accords or differences with other forces outside Lebanon. On this occasion, I would like to point out that in those years we did not have any significant differences with France. During Presidnt Mitterrand's visit to Damascus, through our review of the situation in Lebanon, and in our discussions of what we believed was good for Lebanon, we had no differences on our concepts in general.

Question: Your Excellency, what guarantee can be given to the Maronites in Lebanon regarding the future so that they do not become second-class citizens?

Al-Asad: Tackling the issue in this way or looking at the Lebanese problem from this angle is incorrect and dangerous. I know there are Christian and non-Christian sects in France. Do they distribute tasks, posts, education, and all matters of life in light of the French citizens religious or sectarian affilation, or in light of his French nationality? Consequently, what would the answer be if you were asked about the guarantees that France grants to the Maronites or any other sect in france? The guarantee for all citizens in any country is a national system that cares for the homeland as a whole and gives each citizen his rights in light of his citizenship and in light of national standards, and not in light of his sectarian affiliation or sectarian standards. On this base, linking any system, law, or regulation to sectarian affiliations and formulating these systems in accordance with sectarian standards causes injustice to all sects in the country concerned and consequently to all citizens. Therefore, let us exchange the national system for the of sectarian system and search for guarantees for all citizens in Lebanon.

My answer to the question is that the guarantee to the Lebanese is the establishment of a national nonsectarian system in which the Lebanese citizen is dealt with in light of national political standards and not in light of sectarian standards. The sectarian system did not create a homeland in the real sense of the world, because the individual's life is linked to his sect. The individual is employed in light of his sectarian affiliation, educated in light of this affiliation, eats his bread in light of this affiliation. Therefore, when there is a national problem, he specifies his stand on it light of the narrow sectarian viewpoint, in light of his sectarian affiliation, and adopts the stand resulting from that whether it conflicts with the interest of the homeland as a whole or not. This is not a proper system for life.

I do not know of any other system with identical conditions. In Germany, for example, problems occurred inthe past between Catholic and Protestant sects. However, they opted for a national, nonsectrian solution. Sectarianism is disease in any country. I distinguish here between sectarianism and religion. I mean that the individual has the right to be as religious as he wants. But our daily life as citizens should not be decided in light of our sectarian adn religious affiliations.

Question: Your Excellency, do you believe that Lebanon, some day in the future, can become nonsectarian, even on the level of the president of the republic?

Al-Asad: The matter is not a subject of discussion now. However, in principle, I do not see anything against that. I wish to refer to a point. I asked you a while ago about French guarantees for Maronites. Your answer woudl be that there is no problem in France because all are French. Here also, it must be taken into consideration that all Lebanese are Arabs. Despite the French interest in Lebanon, I noticed that the historical dimension in Lebanon is not accuarately understood on a wide level among all Frenchmen. I mean that you may find a French citizen who thinks that Maronites are an independent entity and not Arabs. There are Frenchmen who think that the Maronites do not know

Arabic, except for those of them who learned it as a foreign language.

The Maronites are basically Arab like the rest of the Lebanese people and like us Syrians. The Maronite teachings have not emerged from Lebanon, and Mar Maron himself lived in Aleppo and was buried in the township of Al-Rastan in the heart of Syria.

The important thing is that the laws should not distinguish between the citizens, who must be treated on national criteria. This will guarantee everybody's rights. Regardless of all our opinions, we will support any agreement achieved by the Lebanese. We are always ready to encourage them to reach an agreement whether or not it is the best for us. Of course, the links between us and Lebanon will not be adversely affected regardless of the agreement they may reach. The historic ties between the two countries are not governed by a number of sentences on paper. Therefore, we are concerned about achieving an agreement that will lead even to partial reforms and peace and stop the bloodshed and mitigate their and our burden.

Question: Let us move from Lebanon to the Palestinians. The military situation in the Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon is similar to that which had prevailed in the Tripoli and Beirut camps. Can the Amal movement, Syria, and Israel accept an armed Palestinian presence in Lebanon, especially in light of the fact that this armed presence may lead to instability?

Al-Asad: We should distinguish between two issues. First, the issue of the inhabitants in general: In this regard, the Palestinian citizens in all the Arab countries should be treated just like other citizens in those countries are treated. Of course, we are not trying to impose this on others although we believe in it and apply it in Syria. The Palestinian in Syria has the same rights as the Syrian citizen.

The second point is related to the Palestinian strugglers. We believe that all Arab countries should support them and enable them to move freely in their struggle to regain the Palestinian national rights. This applies to Lebanon just as it applies to Syria, Jordan, Egypt, and ony other Arab country. Israel has nothing to do with this issue because it occupies the land of Palestine and parts of the other Arab countries and is trying to expand. Its ambitions are no secret to the Arabs.

Question: How do you view the fact that the so-called Palestinian dissidents have not gained the support of the Arabs and the Palestinians in both the Arab countries and in the occupied lands, and that these citizens remain closer to the PLO under Yasir 'Arafat?

Al-Asad: It is well know that the vanguards of the Palestinian struggle are made up of a number of Palestinian organizations, msot of which adopt parallel political and militant lines. The people usually march behind their militant vanguards. Hence, the Palestinian people are marching behind these organizations which enjoy popularity withinthe framework of the Palestinian people. In fact, the Arab masses sympathize with these Palestinian organizations, which uphold the Palestinian people's rights.

Question: Vice President Rif'at al-Asad recently met with Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] in Switzerland. Do you see in this a sign of a rapprochement between Syria and the PLO command?

Al-Asad: We do not have a personal stand with regard to anyone in the Palestinian arena. I too met with Faruq Qaddumi in my office here a few months ago. The problem is not a personal one. Therefore, a meeting can take place between any Syrian official and any ordinary Palestinian citizen or leader at any time.

Question: The problem between Syria and Yasir 'Arafat is a political problem. If 'Arafat agrees to cancel what took place in the Amman PNC session and accepts a return to the Algiers PNC session resolutions, will you then agree to hold a meeting with him?

Al-Asad: The problem basically lies in the Palestinian arena. When the state of affairs improves in this arena, it will be possible for us to discuss matters that are submitted to us on this issue.

Question: But Yasir 'Arafat is defending a policy that is very similar to that which King Husayn is defending. Why then do you not agree to hold discussions with him while you have agreed to hold discussions with King Husayn?

Al-Asad: The disagreement, as I already said, is first of all between Yasir 'Arafat and his brothers in the Palestinian aena. Second, the state of affairs in the Palestinian arena has completely different characteristics from thestate of affais with respect to Jordan as a state. In any case, our stands and principles are constant. We define them in our discussions with any head of state or any person with whom we hold a discussion.

Question: Your Excellency, what do you expect from the resumption of dialogue with Jordan, and why have you not called for the cancellation of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, which you oppose?

Al-Asad: Who said that w did not ask for this? Our stand on the Amman agreement is a public stand, is known, and contains no ambiguities. We do not approve this agreement. As for dialogue with Jordan, one can say that relations between us are good now and both of us mention that it is important that they be good in the future. We can say that in the sphere of bilateral misunderstanding we have overcome an important stage. There are points which concern us on the bilateral level and which are of concern too to the brother Arabs. We have achieved progress on these points. We continue to discuss the other points. As you know, before I met with King Husayn, the prime ministers of the two countries met more than once. We are in agreement on rejecing direct negotiations and separate solutions. This was announced in a statement that was issued after the meeting of the two countries' prime ministers.

Question: Has King Husayn mentioned to you his contacts with Israeli officials?

Al-Asad He did not mention this.

Question: Will you visit Jordan soon?

Al-Asad: Not Yet. We have not set a date yet.

Question: Recent meetings have taken place between Syrian and Iraqi officials on the borders. Why were these meetings not followed up by other meetings, and why do you not consider holding such meetings in the future?

Al-Asad: These meetings did not require other meetings on other levels.

Question: You then believe that there is no chance of going further with these contacts?

Al-Asad: There are no factors for this.

Question: Your Excellency, what is your concept of peace in this region, because many say that you have a specific concept of peace? What are your views on peace in this region?

Al-Asad: It is simple. We want a just peace which restores every usurped right to those who have a legitimate claim to them. The territories Israel occupied must be regained, the Palestinian people's rights must be recognized, and the Palestinians must freely decide their fate and establish their independent state under the PLO. We want a just peace that puts an end to Israeli expansionist aspirations. The formula is through an international conference under UN auspices that will be attended by the two superpowers and maybe by other countries from outside this region, countries from Europe and other regions. Of course, in Fes we adopted a resolution saying that all the permanent UN Security Council member countries are to attend. This is the peace we want, and this is the road one must follow to achieve it. However, we see that Israel is not interested in a real peace. We are convinced that Israel is seriously working to establish a state from the Nile to the Euphrates. The Israelis believe that God has promised them this land and has made them its guardians. That's why they believe they must regain it. A few years ago, Shamir was in France. I read his answer to a question by one of the French journalists. The question was: Why not determine Israel's borders? Shamir's answer was: Israel's borders have been determined for a very long time. He was referring to the Torah and to the talk about an Israeli state from the Nile to the Euphrates. In hsi first visit to the Golan in 1967 after it was occupied by Israel, Moshe Dayan told the Israeli soldiers: The past generation established Israel within its 1984 borders. We have established Israel within the 1967 borders, and you have to establish a greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates. There are many other statements like this by Golda Meir and others. After reading and listening to all this, can we say that Israel does not want a state from the Nile to the Euphrates? This is what they say and that's how they are bringing up their sons. Nothign will change if some Israelis say that they are not working for the establishment of greater Israel or that they do not want it.

Question: Your Excellency, will you regret Shim'on Peres' departure?

Al-Asad: I do not believe we can regret his departure because Peres' party was the one which occupied the Arab territories in 1967. There is nothing that would make us regret his departure. I never heard Shim'on Peres say that he was against greater Israel.

Question: It seems that there is an important trend in Israeli public opinion in this direction?

Al-Asad: You mean a trend against greater Israel? In any case, we judge things in light of what we see, read, and hear. We know that Peres' party was in office and that it was the one which made the decisions during the 1967, 1956, and 1948 wars.

Question: Your Excellency, you have said many times that peace in this region cannot be established without the attainment of a strategic balance. How do you see the establishment of this straegic balance in the region?

Al-Asad: We are working to achieve this balance. The agressive and expansionist trend which exists in Israel makes us dutybound to affirm the following fact: that peace will be difficult to achieve while Israel feels that it is more capable than the others. The strategic balance we have in mind is a strategic balance between Syria and Israel. This dictates to us to progress quickly in the cultural, economic, and social fields, and consequently in the political and military fields.

Question: Israel has annexed the Golan Heights, how do you explain the absence of incidents on the border between you and Israel?

Al-Asad: We and Israel are enemies, and incidents against Israel take place in one place or another. However, we have our own considerations in regard to such incidents.

Question: Will the hijacking of the Libyan plane that was carrying Syrian officials by Israel lead to retaliatory actions against Israel?

Al-Asad: Perhaps. Of course, it will not be against civilian planes. Any actions will not be against civilian planes or targets. However, there is some sort of daily fighting between us.

Question: Egypt's departure has weakened the Arab world in general and deprived it of the strategic balance you are talking about. Is it possible for you to attend a conference whose agenda includes the restoration of Egypt to the Arab fold?

Al-Asad: Perhaps I will attend such a conference, but I will not support Egypt's return as long as it is tied by Camp David. We believe that Egypt will return at some time without Camp David because the current situation does not satisfy the Egyptian citizen in General. The peace they say that Egypt and Israel have achieved did not end Israel's military growth. Now Israel is stronger than it was when it and Egypt signed the agreement while Egypt became much weaker. Is this in Egypt's interest? Certainly not.

Question: Regarding Iran, for months there have been signs of a change or even tension in relations between Syria and Iran. Iran did not approve the tripartite agreement signed in Damascus, there is a reduction of oil imports, and there is tension between the hizballah and the Syrian forces in Lebanon. Will this alter your relations with Iran?

Al-Asad: Relations between us and Iran are good, and we did not discuss the tripartite agreement with Iran. Regarding Hizballah, it has its own view of the Lebanese government in general. We did not discuss this agreement with it and it did not discuss it with us. We know that it has a very different viewpoint, but it does not present a problem to this agreement.

Question: Therefore, there will be no change in Syrian- Iranian relations in the foreseeable future?

Al-Asad: I said that we have good relations. There are matters between any two countries dealing with work. There are routine matters, bureaucratic matters, but there are no problems worth mentioning.

Question: Is Hizballah's trend not a challenge to the Syrian authorities or policies in Lebanon?

Al-Asad: In any case, we are still very far from the stage of challenge. The most important thing is that this party takes a firm stand against the Israeli occupation. They have resolutely struggled agaisnt the Israeli occupation and this is a point of agreement concerning Syria, concerning the Lebanese and Arab nationalists, and concerning Hizballah also.

Question: Do you believe that Hizballah's struggle against the Israelis in Lebanon might give it an opportunity to be an acceptable Islamic interlocutor with Syria?

Al-Asad: Hizballah does not deal with these issues. Discussing this issue means that we will be discussing a problem that does not exist.

Question: Regarding its recent offensive, Iran has said that it has cut off roads between Iraq and the Gulf states. Can Syria accept this?

Al-Asad: In fact, I do not have enough details about the situation there. As you know, the two sides issue conflicting statements. We follow the situation and try to know the true situation. It is difficult to view the problem between Iraq and Iran from a narrow angle or from a partial incident. The evaluation of the Iraq-Iran war will continue to be incomplete if not viewed comprehensively. This was our opinion from the beginning of the war, and it is still our opinion.

Question: Excuse me for insisting on this question. You have previously said that Syria mediated with Iran in order to prevent the war from spreading outside the current limits. Do you have any intentions to interfere if the war spreads outside its current limits, namely the Gulf states?

Al-Asad: Of course. However, we do not expect it to spread in this direction.

Question: If you would Mr President, let us move to the French hostages issue. Early last January, President Miterrand expected to be able to declare the release of the hostages to the French public. What caused matters to stop, and what happened to postpone a solution to this issue?

Al-Asad: Contacts between us and France on this issue have been active during the past period. More than one contact took place between myself and President Mitterrand. We have exerted efforts and reached an agreement with those concerned in the kidnapping of the hostages. The hostages were supposed to be released a few days after the contact which took place between me and President Miterrand. However, the kidnappers did not abide by the agreement that was reached. It is difficult and impossible to find justifications for this stand. In any case, we condemned their action from the beginning, and we cannot but denounce this action. At any rate, we tried to help release the hostages. Without getting into details, because this might not be in the interest of the hostages themselves, we do not understand why they did not abide by the agreement. However, as a result of this, relations between us and the group which gives shelter to the kidnappers have become bad. The relations will continue to be so, and there will never be normal relations as long as they will continue to hold the hostages or if they will not release them. They know this. Our view is that they caused harm to the hostages and to us through their action and through their refusal to abide by the agreement that was reached. We hope that they will correct this mistake as soon as possible.

Question: The kidnappers or the organizations which protect them consider the guarantees given by France and its president as insufficient. Could you act as guarantor for the kidnappers?

Al-Asad: We have informed them that we would act as guarantor. We believe that President Miterrand has exerted his utmost within the framework of the French laws.

Question: Can you officially say that you can guarantee the French president's stand toward the kidnappers?

Al-Asad: Of course, because any talk I have with and anything I agree on with the French president necessitates that I can guarantee it, and when I and the French president agree on anything, then this means that I can abide by this agreement with the others. Our relations with France are good, and the understanding between us is also good, especially after President Miterrand's visit to Syria. I can see no justification for doubting any agreement between him and me.

Question: Do you know the whereabouts of the hostages?

Al-Asad: Of course not. If you mean the country, then I believe they are in Lebanon.

Question: Will the Syrian Army interfere to liberate the hostages?

Al-Asad: If we know where they are exactly and can guarantee their safety.

Question: Do you believe that the hostages issue has reached a complete dead end and that this issue will last for a long time?

Al-Asad: We hope this will not be so. The issue is being followed up.

Question: Do you have contacts with Iran in this regard?

Al-Asad: Of course, we have discussed this issue. Some sides helped us while others did not. At any rate, our problem is in Lebanon and not in Iran.

Question: Are the demands of the organization which protects the kidnappers material demands, namely exchange of prisoners, or they are merely political demands?

Al-Asad: In fact, the demands are not constant. They are changing and they are being finalized. However, we are not pessimistic. The important thing is to reach a solution. It is true that we are somehow faced by a stalemate in the situation, but it is difficult for the current situation to continue.

Question: Could there be cooperation between Syria and France to combat terrorism?

Al-Asad: Our relations with France are good. However, there is no cooperation in this regard. If any terrorist act is carried out against France, we cannot but be against this act. We have always stressed that terrorism must not be confused with national resistance although this has nothing to do with actions that could take place in France. However, there are attempts to mix terrorism and national resistance or to accuse the national resistance agaisnt occupation and colonialism of terrorism. For example, when an operation is carried out against the Israelis in Lebanon, the Israelis described this operation as a terrorist act. We are against terrorism, but we are with any people's resistance against their occupiers. Terrorism is a mercenary action for the sake of personal interests, and sometimes for the sake of killing. However, resistance operations are for the sake of peoples' causes. From this premise, the French people struggled against invasions they were exposed to in the past. If we do not differentiate between terrorism and resistance we will all be terrorists, because anyone who defends his homeland will be a terrorist.

Question: Mr President, in your opinion, what role can France play in the Middle East?

Al-Asad: France can play an important role in achieving the peace process. I have referred to this more than once including during my meeting with President Miterrand. Since 1973, we have been looking at this issue in this manner. The French might not share our viewpoint, or they might not have a great interest in this although I have felt great interest from President Miterrand in this issue.

Question: to end this interview, I would like to ask two small questions: First, how do you feel when you read something in the western press describing you as being the Arabs' Bismark?

Al-Asad: I do not want to comment on a personal subject or on any question of a personal nature. However, I will say that we act in accordance with our convictions, and we want to be a unified Arab people and nation to contribute to human civilization and peace and to live with others in peace.

Question: Mr President, do you have any plans to go to France in the near future? You visited France in 1976, would you like to visit France again?

Al-Asad: Such a visit is not planned at the moment but as France is a friendly country we can visit at any time.

Question: Do you have any plans to visit other western states?

Al-Asad: At the moment, no.

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Peres: PLO, Jordan Not Conducting Negotiations

TA181204 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Feb 86 p 3

[Report by Knesset affairs correspondent Tova Tzimuqi]

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said yesterday in the Knesset that Jordan stopped the negotiations with 'Arafat because the PLO had demanded the establishment of a Palestinian state before starting negotiations with Jordan. "I think it is appropriate to again make this clear, primarily to the residents of the territories so that they do not delude themselves."

Replying to a verbal query by Knesset Member [MK] Mati Peled (Progressive List for Peace), Peres said that the PLO is trying to spread rumors to the effect that its negotiations with Jordan are continuing. According to him, 'Arafat is testing his strength in Egypt after failing in Amman. Peres also said that Jordan presented the PLO with the following conditions: entry into direct negotiations with Israel; a cessation of terrorism; and acceptance of Resolutions 242 and 338. "The PLO did not respond positively to even one of these," he said.

MK Peled said in response that apparently the prime minister has not learned anything or forgotten anything: In his reply today he persisted in his stubborn refusal to recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and blatantly denied any progress in the negotiations which are lately being conducted between the PLO and Jordan, Egypt, and the United States.

Reportage, Comment on Activities in Lebanon

Peres Comments on Policy

TA181543 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has said that the IDF is conducting all the necessary searches and voiced the hope that the whereabouts of the missing soldiers will be found shortly. Peres added that he does not see any room for change in Israel's policy toward Lebanon in the wake of yesterday's incident. Let us go over to our broadcasting van and our correspondent Uri Ginossar, who interviewed the prime minister during a tour of Tel Aviv today.

[Begin recording] [Peres] The IDF is conducting the necessary searches and is looking into all the incidents. I hope that we will get on the tracks of the kidnappers and find the whereabouts of the soldiers.

[Ginossar] Can you give us any details about today's incident in the sea [off the Tyre coast in which an IDF soldier was killed]?

[Peres] No, not yet. I would rather have the chief of staff or the IDF spokesman do that.

[Ginossar] In your assessment, is there room for change in Israel's policy toward Lebanon in the wake of yesterday's incident?

[Peres] I do not think so, notwithstanding the fact that security cannot be hermetically foolproof. To my deep regret, incidents may occur. Of course, we should draw the lessons from each incident so as not to repeat past errors.

[Ginossar] Still, what are we going to do to find the two missing soldiers and their kidnappers?

[Peres] I have no statement to make at this moment. I do not think that statements would be beneficial at this time. [end recording]

Rabin: Troops Will Not Remain

TA181831 Jerusalem Domestic Service In English 1800 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Speaking to pool reporters in south Lebanon today, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin made it clear Israel had no intention of keeping the troops in the area once the current search operation ends.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] We'll go back to the system that we employed in the last 8-9 months; that is to say, to maintain the security zone which has proved its effectiveness in the defense of the border of Israel, the settlements and the settlers within Israel.

[Correspondent Alan Ben-'Ami] Massive IDF forces, including tank units, went into Lebanon last night and this morning. Is all this force needed to search for the two missing Israeli soldiers or is the IDF using this opportunity in order to achieve other goals in Lebanon?

[Rabin] No, it's not an opportunity; it is a very severe incident that took place. In response to it, we carry this kind of large-scale search in a relatively large area outside the security zone into Lebanon, and I believe that the forces that are carrying this mission are needed to make sure that the search, the discoveries, will be done in the most effective way with the least casualties as possible.

[Ben-'Ami] How long do you think will the IDF remain in Lebanon?

[Rabin] For a relatively short time. We have no intention of changing our basic policy on which the government decided over a year ago and the IDF carried out 8-9 months ago. [end recording]

General Or on Deployment

TA181157 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1120 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Interview with Major General Ori Or, the commander of the Northern Command, by military correspondent Gay Zohar "beyond the security zone" in Lebanon — on 18 February; recorded]

[Text][Zohar] Commander of the Northern Command Maj Gen Ori Or, are there already any signs or hints about the tracks of the two kidnapped IDF soldiers?

[Or] There are no signs, and at this time I will not touch on all the searches we are conducting here, [words indistinct] so that many people will not be disappointed. We are here; we went beyond the security zone borders because we believe the people involved in this act came from this area. In the course of the searches we have also discovered large quantities of arms which were directed against Israel and the security zone. If there are signs, we will follow them. However, I cannot point to special signs.

[Zohar] At this stage, have you not received or heard any new demands or a new picture promised by several organizations?

[Or] We have not heard.

[Zohar] There is large-scale IDF activity here, beyond the security zone. Will this turn into a permanent situation now, in order to prevent such incidents in future?

[Or] No. To repeat, and we have discussed this many times: We have been in the security zone for almost a year now and have already carried out several operations beyond the security zone. This operation is a result of an incident which took place yesterday. There have been similar incidents with the same results in the past. Therefore, we will comb the security zone and locate weapons. I have also distributed a leaflet which states that any resident who is not involved in anti-IDF activity can sit quietly at home and cultivate his land. The entire operation is against those elements which harm the IDF or intend to harm the State of Israel. This is the goal. There is no long-term goal to expand the security zone.

[Zohar] Has this extensive activity resulted in any firing incidents in the area?

[Or] A few incidents of light weapons fire here and there, but nothing significant at this stage.

Levi: Greater UNIFIL Efforts

TA181758 Jerusalem Domestic Service In Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] The UN headquarters in southern Lebanon has instructed its officers to make certain that UN officers are present in every settlement whithin UNIFIL's sphere of authority and where the IDF is conducting search operations.

Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Moshe Levi met with UNIFIL commander General William Callaghan today and told him that the IDF believes that UNIFIL should increase its attempts to curb terrorists in Lebanon.

Security establishment sources have told our military correspondent that UNIFIL is not cooperating. The battalion from Ireland is permitting the terrorists to act out of the area under its control.

Levi Briefs Knesset Committee

TA191609 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Moshe Levi today briefed the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Knesset Member [MK] Pesah Grupper of the Likud proposed that the sons of 15 Shi'ite mukhtars be kidnapped, while MK Amnon Linn of the Alignment criticized the fact that Israel does not adopt a stiffer policy toward the Shi'ites. However, most of the committee members came out in total support of the IDF's policy in southern Lebanon. Here is a report by out Knesset correspondent Gil Ronen:

Chief of Staff Lt Gen Moshe Levi briefed the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee about the incident in which two IDF soldiers were kidnapped. All types of very serious action are currently being taken to find their whereabouts, the chief of staff said.

The first speaker in the ensuing debate was Amnon Linn of the Alignment, who leveled harsh criticism at the fact that the IDF had informed the villagers in southern Lebanon that there is no intention to mete out collective punitive measures. If we do not make it plain that we might take action against vast segments of the population, Linn said, we will not be able to get information from them on the whereabouts of the kidnapped soldiers. This is tantamount to abandoning the soldiers, Linn stated, but later he retracted this remark.

Pesah Grupper suggested that the sons of 15 Shi'ite mukhtars be kidnapped and held as hostages in exchange for our two soldiers. The remarks of Grupper and Linn provoked harsh reaction. The chief of staff explained that the IDF does not use collective punishment and does not abandon anybody.

Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer of the Alignment said: The chief of staff does not need our advice. I want to extend to him my support and congratulate him on his policy. Those who call for exacerbating relations with the Shi'ites in southern Lebanon are talking about bringing hell to the entire area of the northern Galilee, and those who call on Israel to seize hostages do not know what they are talking about; this is a sure recipe for turning the entire area into the largest terrorist base that ever operated against us.

Responding to Grupper's suggestion, Shevah Weiss of the Alignment cynically remarked: Maybe we should kidnap 70 mukhtars. Yosi Sarid of the Citizens' Rights Movement mockingly added: Maybe we should once again go into the whole of Lebanon. Both El'azar Granot of MAPAM and Dan Meridor of the Likud joined in extending their full support for the policy presented by the chief of staff. Shevah Weiss said in summation: It is a political, security, and moral interest to maintain orderly relations with the Shi'ites.

Squad Said Still in South

TA190526 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Officers in the Northern Command believe that the terrorist squad that kidnapped the two soldiers is still in southern Lebanon. Last night, the IDF continued its searches and house-to-house searches were conducted in eight Shi'ite villages. At dawn, large forces began combing open areas, river beds, caves, and orchards. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the Shi'ite inhabitants have not exhibited violent opposition and are generally cooperating. The IDF has asked the villagers to turn the terrorists in. LAW [light antitank weapon] missiles, RPG's, and mortars were discovered in last night's searches.

'Islamic Resistance' Ultimatum

TA190517 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] The names of the two IDF soldiers kidnapped in southern Lebanon 2 days ago are: Yosi Fink, aged 20, from Ra'anana, and Rahamim Alshekh, aged 21, from Rosh Ha'ayin. Both are students at the Qarne Shomron hester yeshiva. Yesterday, the organization called the Islamic Resistance published the names of the soldiers and their identification numbers, and also showed photographs of their personal documents. The organization has threatened to harm one of the kidnapped soldiers if the IDF fails to withdraw from southern Lebanon by 2100. [1900 GMT] The IDF spokesman announced that it has no comment on this declaration.

General Or on Search

TA191148 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Report by Hayim Hecht]

[Excerpts] During the searches conducted last night and this morning, additional large amounts of weapons were found, most of which would have at some point been pointed toward the northern border. Among other things, katyusha rockets, launchers, and mortars were found this morning. There is almost no violent opposition in the Shi'ite villages to the searches, even though the soldiers are stern and strict.

News agencies in Beirut report apparent battles between Lebanese opposition forces and IDF tanks. There have been no such things, said the commander of the Northern Command, Major General Ori Or.

[Begin recording] [Or] There are no clashes involving fire. The searches are being conducted peacefully, and there is nothing that is hindering them. We have no interest in disturbing the residents living in Lebanon, neither in the south nor north of the security zone.

[Hecht] Maj Gen Or, there was an ultimatum which emanated from Beirut. Are we conducting negotiations with someone? Do we have an interlocutor?

[Or] I know nothing about an ultimatum from Beirut. News agencies have published an ultimatum. I do not think that the IDF should conduct negotiations with news agencies. If and when an official body comes and has its say, then someone will be found to talk with it. Reports have been issued through news agencies; the IDF does not conduct negotiations through news agencies or with news agencies. This has nothing to do with the future or the security of the security strip, but rather of northern Israel. These people are not roaming around for nothing. They are searching for two missing people. We want to ensure the safety of the northern settlements. The problem of terrorism in Lebanon has not been solved. Therefore, the IDF is not conducting negotiations with one news agency or another.

[Hecht] Maj Gen Or, do the findings so far reinforce the belief that the IDF soldiers who were kidnapped are still south of the Al-Litani River?

[Or] I do not want to assess the situation. There are many people who are waiting and alert to any news. We are doing all that is possible in certain areas to search for signs, signals, or anything else connected to the missing soldiers. During the search, other things are being uncovered which point to a violation of the security in this region. [end recording]

Shamir: Murderers of Beirut Jews Will Be Punished

TA171421 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] The foreign minister is convinced that the Shi'ite criminals who kidnapped and murdered Jews in Beirut will be caught and severely punished. However, Minister Shamir maintains that we must ask Beirut's Jews why they are still there. According to him, they were given several opportunities to leave. Today it is difficult to leave Beirut, but if the Jews will want to come to Israel, we will find the way to bring them here. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Minister Shamir said this in a talk with Kadoori school students.

Another Beirut Jew Killed

TA190512 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] An extremist Shi'ite organization in Beirut has announced that it has killed another Jew. The organization, called the Oppressed of the World, has announced that it has murdered Eli Halaq, aged 52, a physician and the vice president of the Jewish community in Beirut. It was reported that his body will only be handed over after the IDF units withdraw from Lebanon and the Shi'ite prisoners held by Israel are released. The announcement was made to *AL-NAHAR*.

This organization had already killed three other Jews, and is presently holding captive another four: the president of the Jewish community, Yitzhaq Sason; Eli Sarur; and Yehuda and Yosef (Benetti).

16 Feb Cabinet Session Marked by 'Squabbling'

TA161519 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] The Cabinet session today was vociferous and full of squabbling. Cabinet Secretary Dr Yosi Beilin announced that contrary to usual practice, he will not brief reporters today due to the nature of the debate. One such verbal clash developed between Ministers Moda'i and Shahal. Minister Mordekhay Gur tried to settle the argument, but Yitzhaq Moda'i silenced him with very harsh words. The energy minister complained that the Treasury has frozen his ministry's budget and has been preventing the channeling of funds for new projects. The government decided to pass the issue to a ministerial committee, which will rule on whether the finance minister has the authority to withhold funds allotted to a ministry.

The Cabinet approved the extension of the ad hoc decision to continue paying allowances for another 3 months. This means that allowances for the needy, disabled, senior citizens, and widows will not be cut, as the Treasury had demanded.

Peres on Economic Growth, Cabinet

TA162033 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Interview with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by David Gilbo'a in the prime minister's office on 16 February — videotaped]

[Text][Gilbo'a] Mr Prime Minister, the Likud maintains that the Alignment has in fact decided to disband the government, and that since the attempt to bring this about over political issues failed, it is now determined to bring about a crisis over economic issues.

[Peres] The Likud handled the economy for 7 years, and look where it got us. We have now put the economy back on the right track by forming two coalitions: One is an economic coalition involving the Histadrut, the industrialists, and the government; and the second is in terms of parties. If anyone conducts economic affairs according to personal or partisan guidelines and introduces political overtones into economic matters, we will not be able to conduct economic affairs any longer.

[Gilbo'a] Who conducts the economy according to partisan guidelines?

[Peres] I do not like the charges being voiced by the Likud and the finance minister. One legitimate argument could be over what the next step should be. Even in the previous steps the finance minister often had misgivings. Therefore, I suggest that the argument focus on economic matters and not touch on partisan affairs. When it comes to parties, I believe the Likud has very good reason to maintain a low profile in this respect.

[Gilbo'a] Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i pleaded with you last week: Let me pursue the economic program. Does Mr Moda'i actually fear that you intend to interfere with his plan?

[Peres] If you will forgive me, there has never been a finance minister who has enjoyed and been given — by me included — such leeway to operate as Mr Moda'i. If he wants to work, he will be granted every opportunity to do so; if he chooses to deal with politics, this is not work, it is a different matter.

[Gilbo'a] You have recently talked about the stage of growth, and in this you differ with Mr Moda'i. Is not the intention really to protect Histadrut-owned plants, and primarily Solel Boneh [construction company]?

[Peres] First of all, what is wrong with defending Histadrut-owned plants? But we do not mean only Histadrut-owned plants, but also Mr Shiff's hotel businesses. I do not want unemployment to run rampant in Israel, but since you asked it seems I must explain myself, because inaccuracies are constantly being reported and published. I do not propose supplementing the state budget; nor do I propose printing money. What I am proposing is what the governor of the Bank of Israel has also been supporting: We have $4 billion in savings, and we want to allow the diversion of 10 percent of this, in the form of bonds, for investment in industry. Second, we have saved money thanks to the drop in oil prices, and I am suggesting that this be invested in the economy: Part of the savings should be returned to the citizens, and part should be invested in the economy. I propose that we start raising funds for growth, and I already started discussing this with the Americans during my last trip to the United States. And I am not necessarily referring to money; otherwise we will be only marking time, or rather even beginning to regress.

[Gilbo'a] Mr Peres, finally, at today's Cabinet session harsh exchanges were heard, unprecedented in the annals of the government you head. Is today the beginning of the end of the national unity government?

[Peres] I will not allow another session like today's to take place. It is unacceptable. There is a lot of personal tension because the ministers are burdened with a heavy yoke. They are the ones who must suffer great cuts. Naturally, there is also a dispute with the Treasury. Recently a political overtone has also been introduced, but not by me and I hope also not by my colleagues. If there is an argument, let us argue; but the political accusations came from the other side, God only knows why. It is impossible to claim that the goal of the rotation is the prime suspect; one must keep his suspicions to himself. At the Cabinet table, the argument must be dignified and devoid of a partisan or personal overtone.

Do you know that all those who yesterday opposed the economic program suddenly became its great defenders?

[Gilbo'a] If such a scene recurs at the next Cabinet session, what then?

[Peres] Then not only I, but the Cabinet will be faced with an extremely difficult problem. Furthermore, I am convinced that no Cabinet member wants this scene to repeat itself.

[Gilbo'a] Does this indicate a threat that you will resign from the premiership if this occurs?

[Peres] I am not threatening anything except that another session like this — in both style and content — will not take place, and that I will do everything in my power to see that future sessions are not like this. This does not include any further threat.

[Gilbo'a] Thank you very much, Mr Prime Minister.

[Peres] Thank you.

Knesset Votes Down MAPAM No-Confidence Motion

TA181621 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] A few minutes ago the Knesset voted down MAPAM's motion of no-confidence in the government due to the situation in Israel's Shipyards. Knesset Members Yisra'el Qeysar of the Alignment and Ya'aqov Shamay of the Likud joined the coalition [as heard] factions in their vote of no-confidence.

Consumer Price Index Registers 1.3 Percent Drop

TA141223 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Last month's consumer price index dropped by 1.3 percent, a drop that has not been registered in over 13 and 1/2 years and which has never been registered in the month of January since the state was first established. Excluding fruit and vegetables, the index dropped by 2.2 percent. The prices of fruit and vegetables went up by nearly 11 percent, but the cost of housing went down by approximately 10 percent, and the cost of clothing and footwear also dropped by nearly 3 percent due to the end-of-season sales. Over the past 3 months, the consumer price index rose by 0.4 percent.

Our correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that since January, the index has been computed according to a different method. It was decided that last year's annual average is the 100 point mark, making last month's index 134.5 points. According to the new system, the relative weight given the various components is different, but this has not substantially affected the index rate.

The prime minister said that the index reflects the attainment of stability in the market, and this is a precondition for the achievement of the main goal — growth. The finance minister said that he was not surprised by the negative index, and therefore still believes that the economic program must be pursued and not amended, and accelerated growth in Israel should not be launched at the moment. He believes there are still no grounds to speak of the economic program as a complete success. Such a success can only be declared in an advanced stage of growth, which will not happen in the near future.

The Histadrut secretary general believes that the January index drop heralds, for the first time, a reduction in prices, although one cannot tell whether or not this is going to be a permanent trend. He told our correspondent Moshe Nestelbaum that the main problem the Histadrut must now tackle is the problem of unemployment.

Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon is satisfied with the index rate, and thinks that it expresses the price policy his ministry has adopted and indicates that the efforts are yielding good results.

The industrialists have said that although the price controls are gradually being lifted, the industrial index has not changed. Industrialist Amnon Tiberg told our correspondent Tzahi Noga that this proves that it is necessary to pursue the policy of price deregulation.

Sanyurah Says PLO Supports Resolutions 242, 338

TA141230 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 14 Feb 86 p 2

[Report by the party affairs correspondent]

[Text] "The PLO supports all the UN resolutions connected with the Palestinian problem, including Resolutions 242 and 338." This was said yesterday by Hana Sanyurah, the editor of *AL-FAJR*, in a talk with MAPAM Secretary General El'azar Granot, who visited the paper's editorial board.

Sanyurah recently returned from Amman where he held talks with Yasir 'Arafat and other senior Palestinian officials. Knesset Member Granot stressed MAPAM's support for mutual recognition and for tha right of the Jewish people and the Palestinian people to self-determination. He called for a complete truce between the two sides — on a mutual basis — for at least 6 months in order to enable negotiations to begin.

Latif Dori, MAPAM's coordinator of Arab affairs, also participated in the meeting.

ALGERIA

Bendjedid Announces Government Appointments
LD182139 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the FLN party, today made new appointments in the government. They included the following:

Brother Boualam Baki as the minister of religious affairs in lieu of brother Abdelrrahmane Chibane, who was called for other duties; Brother Mohamed Cherif Kharroubi as the minister of justice; Sister Zhor Ounissi as the minister of national education; Brother Faysal Boudraa as the minister of heavy industries in lieu of brother Salim Saadi, who was called for other duties.

The post of the deputy minister in charge of mechanical, electric, and electronic industries was abolished, together with the post of deputy minister in charge of construction materials and the post of deputy minister in charge of sports.

Brothers Nouraddine Harbi, Hocine Hadj, Mohamed Arezgui Isli and Zineddine Chekfali were called for other duties.

President Chadli Bendjedid also made the following appointments: Brother Mohamed Aberkane as deputy minister attached to the minister of foreign affairs in charge of cooperation; Brother Mohamed Mazouni as deputy minister attached to the minister of agriculture and fishing in charge of fishing; Brother Yasine Fergueni as deputy minister attached to the minister of energy, chemical and petrochemical industries in charge of chemical and petrochemical industries; Sister Leila Tayeb as deputy minister attached to the minister of national education in charge of secondary and technical education; Brother Aissa Abdellaoui as deputy minister attached to the minister of irrigation, environment and forestry in charge of invironment and forestry.

President Chadli Bendjedid today also made some appointments at the Presidency, according to which he has appointed Larbi Belkhire as director of the Presidential Office; Mouloud Hamrouche, secretary general at the Presidency; and Brother Mohamed Saleh Mouhamdi, secretary general for the government.

President Chadli Bendjedid today also issued a decision for the reshaping of the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN Party Central Committee. The Permament Secretariat is to include, in addition to the central Disciplinary Committee chaired by Brother Mohamed Abada and the Central Committee of Finance and Control chaired by Brother Saleh Halouachi, councils, sectors and branches:

The councils are: The Higher Council for Youth; the Higher Council for the National Language; the Higher Council for Friendship and Solidarity with the Peoples.

The sections are: the Sector for Organization and People's Assemblies; the Sector of the Mass Organizations and Voluntary Work; the Sector of Information, Culture, and Training; the Sector of Economic and Social Affairs; the Sector of Foreign Relations.

The President of Republic and secretary general of the FLN Party has appointed Brothers Abdelkarime (?Souiti) in charge of the Higher Council for Youth; Mouloud Kacem Nait Benkacem in charge of the Higher Council for the National Language, and Sadek Zouaten in charge of the Council for Friendship and Solidarity with the People; Brothers Salah Goudjil in charge of the Sector for Organization and People's Assemblies; Mohamed Sebaa in charge of the sector of Mass Organizations and Voluntary Work; Bachir Khaldoun in charge of the Sector of Information, Culture and Training; Ahmed Ali Ghouzali in charge of the Sector of Economic and Social Affairs, and Abderrazak Bouhara in charge of the Sector of Foreign Relations.

Brothers Mohamed Yazid said Ait Massoudane, Boucenane Boumendjeule, Boualem Dalouci, Lazhari Choureite, Mimoune Ferhat, and Taher Hanafi have all been assigned to other duties.

President Receives French, Iranian Foreign Ministers
LD181907 Algiers Domestic Service in French
1830 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid today addressed a message of congratulations to Mario Soares on his election as president of the Republic of Portugal. The head of state also received French External Relations Minister Roland Dumas, who conveyed to him a message from President Mitterrand. Finally, President Chadli Bendjedid received the Iranian foreign affairs and oil ministers.

LIBYA

Military Maneuvers Move Toward Completion
LD181903 Tripoli JANA in English 1802 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Athani, Feb.18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Libyan Arab air, naval and air defence forces, for the tenth consecutive day today, continued their manoeuvres using live ammunition over the Mediterranean sea outside the Libyan Arab Gulf of Sidra.

On 8 February the air, naval and air defence forces staged their live ammuntion manoeuvres in the same place.

To Conclude Late 19 Feb
LD190736 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0715 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Excerpts] 19 Feb (JANA) — JANA has learned that the exercises being carried out by the air, naval and air defenses of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah with live ammunition in the high seas of the Mediterranean and outside the Gulf of Sidra will end today at midnight.

Al-Qadhdhafi, King Fahd Discuss Oil Crisis

LD182153 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2021 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] This evening a telephone contact took place between the brother leader of the revoluiton and King Fahd. It dealt with the acute crisis which the oil market is experiencing and the recent serious drop in oil prices.

The developments in the oil market confirm that the continuation of this crisis in its present state will have serious repercussions on the oil-producing countries. Even political relations may be affected among these states if OPEC member-states fail to reach an agreement that guarantees fair prices to enable them to safeguard their rights and interests, and the unity of its members.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives U.S. Pro-Libyan Delegation

LD171944 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1905 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Tripoli, 17 Feb (JANA) — This afternoon the brother leader of the revolution received a U.S. delegation which represents 28 U.S. popular and political organizations and who have decided to challenge the order which Reagan issued forbidding U.S. citizens to travel to Libya. These organizations held a news conference in which they declared their challenge to this order and they threatened to turn the United States into a desolate and devasted place if anyone of them is harmed by the U.S. Administration because they are supported by 69 million U.S. citizens who share these convictions. They emphasized that their presence in the Jamahiriyah comes also as an expression of their support and backing for the Libyan Arab people its revolution, and its struggle against imperialism, Zionism, and racism.

Demonstration Against French 'Intervention' in Chad

LD181354 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Voice of the Revolutionary Committees]

[Text] This morning Tripoli witnessed a big march of anger and denunciation by the forces of the Chadian revolution in the Jamahiriyah in protest against the French armed intervention in Chad. The march advanced on the French Embassy to declare the Chadian masses' condemnation and denunciation of the unjust attack by French aircraft last Sunday on Ouadi Doum civilian airport situated in the liberated part of Chad, controlled by the Transitional Government of National Unity and used for receiving aid for famine victims in northern Chad.

Chad Crisis Part of French Colonialist Plans

LD181527 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 18 Feb 86

[From the "Spotlights" program]

[Excerpts] The French Government has started escalating its military presence in Chad. This is in the context of a colonialist plan aimed at lighting the fuse of civil war again following the French aircraft's raid on a civilian airport used for receiving aid supplies for famine victims in northern Chad. We present the following report on this subject:

The current crisis in Chad constitutes the first serious test, in a relatively wider scope, of French colonialist plans aimed at pushing forth its military forces designated for intervention in various parts of the world, especially those parts situated outside the European battlefield. Despite the fact that France has sent units of its armed forces to regions outside Europe, particular Africa, on numerous occasions, the situation in Chad seems more than ever before to be destined to hold the possibility of all out military confrontation in which French forces would be a party. The direct cause of this serious escalation is direct intervention in other countries' internal affairs.

The French intervention in Chad comes as part of a new colonialist plan in the African Continent starting from Chadian territories to consolidate its domination over this country which it had dominated over a period of 25 years.

JANA: U.S. Manipulating France in Chad Intervention

LD171509 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1015 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Tripoli, 17 Feb (JANA) — Under the title "Why Now Precisely?", the weekly *AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR* published by the Revolutionary Committees, wrote a leading article in which it dealt with the developments in Chad.

The newspaper wonders about the causes for the French Government's direct interference in Chadian affairs, and asks did the French government choose these circumstances and, if so, why?

The newspaper also said that the French parliamentary election campaign is about to start soon and whenever this happens, those who struggle for power seek to fill their ballot boxes through events at home and abroad. Africa has always been a target of this ploy and the instrument for those who seek power through ballots.

However, the fact that the French Government chooses this time and these circumstances raises more than one question.

What arouses our curiosity is, how did coordination with America take place? Africa cannot be a pawn in a power struggle between Westerners, who are alien to africa. This would constitute as great an insult to the Africans as American hegemony over France causes to the French nation, a nation with a history and civilization dating back before America was born.

The newspaper added "We, as Arab Africans, do not accept any humiliation by the strangers to great Africa, and, as Arabs, we are linked with the African peoples by geographic, historic, and cultural relations. We do not accept any humiliation against Africa and its peoples. France and others should look for ballot papers inside their countries, and should solve their own fight and their own problems, such as unemployment and the complicated and lasting economic crises which are the result of the capitalist and bourgeois system. However, what incites us and incites many others with us is: Why choose Chad? The Americans were defeated before they entered shooting war with us. If they had entered such a war, their defeat would have been of fatal consequences to them, surpassing their defeats in Vietnam and Lebanon. We are ready to deal America blows until it dips its head between its feet."

AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR further said that the American activity in Chad is a result of the loss and defeat it suffered at sea when it wanted to impose a blockade on Libya in the framework of an old-new plan for blockading the Jamahiriyah by transforming all the governments in neighboring countries and placing them in the American orbit. This is impossible and America will see its new defeat as it did previously. France is not America; this is what we believe; and we do not believe that France will be a Philipines, the country which has been placed in the American orbit. However, what is happening now says that France is the servant of America in Africa because it chose Chad, a sensitive region as far as we are concerned. We are linked with its peoples by geographic, historic, and cultural, ties more than to any other African country. Added to this is the fact that the security of Chad is part of the security of the Jamahiriyah. What proves that France has entered the American service is the timing of the arrival of French military equipment with the arrival of the French defense minister in Chad and the placing of French forces in a number of African countries on alert, and with the sending of American military equipment to the rebel Hissene Habre.

If the reason for all this is the presence of the American hand in the French elections, it does not befit France that American interferes in its internal affairs. We believe that the French do not accept a humiliation like this, just as they did not accept the Washington's anxiety regarding the appointment of communist ministers in the French Government because this was considered as interference in the internal affiars of France. However, if the reason is that France offers its service to America in the framework of the confrontation between us and America, then France has chosen to be placed in the American orbit and this situation does not benefit France; the French do not accept a serious humiliation such as this.

The newspaper emphasized that we are for Africa to solve its pending problems by itself and for the strangers to lift their hands off this continent or for this continent will burn the strange hands.

France should realize that our stand is that "if they return we will return," and that we do not accept any blockade on us and that we will bury the invaders in Chad. France should regain its self-respect and refuse the American humiliation, and France should not be for the non-French, just as Africa is not for the non-Africans.

In conclusion, the newspaper said that the choice by France of these circumstances and this place is not to its benefit but will be counter to its interest, and we warn it about two humiliations at the same time - the American humiliation and the humiliation of the inevitable defeat before the African countries. As for America, it knows us very well, and if it insists on taking a slap in the face, we are ready to give it one and the days will show what we mean.

VOGAH on U.S., French 'Interference' in Chad

LD181025 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0215 GMT 18 Feb 86

[From "The Political Dossier" program]

[Excerpts] Concerning the overt French-U.S. intervention in Chad, we have this to say: The U.S.-French stances on various world problems affirm that ethics do not govern imperalist-colonialist attitudes toward peoples, and that these attitudes are governed and guided by the mania for power, false megalomania and an overwhelming desire to dominate the world and subjugate it to imperialist-colonialist influence. This is obvious from their positions on various world issues.

Within the context of this topsy-turvy logic U.S. imperialism and the French Government have rushed to interfere in the affairs of the Chadian people despite the vast distances between Chad and both the United States and France — a fact that rebuts U.S. and French claims to the effect that Chad's security is of concern to the United States and France, and that the events in Chad jeopardize the security of these two countries.

We wonder: How can the Chadian people's struggle for their right to self-determination constitute an act of terrorism and rebellion? How can this struggle pose a threat to U.S. and French security? Is Chad an American state or a French town? What about the U.S. and French allegations about their support for the peoples' right to self-determination and noninterference in their internal affairs and conflicts? What about French pledges of noninterference in the internal conflict in Chad and of refraining to supply arms to either of the warring sides?

French interference in Chad's internal affairs and the French aggression against the Chadian people in addition to U.S. military support for Habre rebut all these U.S. and French allegations and the slogans they raise to mislead and deceive the peoples. For while they raise the slogans of freedom and noninterference in the affairs of people, we see them interfering with their military forces to repress the peoples and to install and protect the agents from the wrath and rage of the masses.

The French have brought Habre and imposed him on Chad by military force. They are the ones who are preventing the Chadian people from determining their own fate. Together with the imperialist and reactionary circles, the French describe the struggling Chadian people's detachments as rebels. But by this description they are interfering and openly violating the sanctity of the Chadian people's affairs and are aligning themselves openly on the side of Habre against the Chadian people.

Why are the revolutonary Chadian detachments described as rebels, while the rebels in Nicaragua are described as revolutionaries? What criteria do the French colonialists and the United States use in the certificates they issue classifying people as rebels and revolutionaries? If the rebels of Nicaragua are revolutionaries from among the Nicaraguan people in the view of imperialist circles, then the revolutionaries of Chad whom the imperialist circles call rebels are also part of the Chadian people. Hence all the pretexts that the imperialist circles use to justify their interference in Chad collapse and the falsehood of their attitudes toward the Chadian people is laid bare. Consequently, the imperialist circles should look for other pretexts to justify their animosity toward the Chadian and African peoples.

Tripoli Cites GUNT Minister on 'Self-Defense' in Chad

LD181426 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1244 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Voice of the Revolutionary Committees]

[Text] The Voice of Greater Arab Homeland, the Voice of the Revolutionary Committees, has met with Najija, minister of finance and economy of the Transitional Government of National Unity [GUNT] and its official spokesman.

At the beginning of the interview he spoke of the current situation in Chad and of the position of GUNT led by Goukouni Oueddei. He said: Undoubtedly, you are aware that in accordance with the agreement concluded at Contonou in December a meeting took place at Bardai, during which the higher council of the revolution defined its future political line. Several important decisions were also adopted, including one providing for the need for work to find a solution to the tragedy of the Chadian people. In accordance with this, the GUNT sent several delegations to numerous countries in Africa and Europe to expound views of GUNT led by Goukouni Oueddei concerning the Chadian problem and the ways and means that should be sought for the establishment of peace in this country, which has been devastated by 20 years of war.

It was surprising that while these efforts were being made the GUNT forces were exposed to aggression by the agent forces led by Habre on 9 February 1986. Two divisions of the agent forces advanced on our positions. In a legitimate act of self-defense our forces began by countering the agent forces and then routed them and chased them back to their positions in Oum Chalouba, and Kouba Olanga and were forced out of these two positions. We exercised our right to chase these forces. Now our forces, that is, the forces of GUNT, are militarily in control of (Belgin), Arada, Oum Chalouba, Kelete, Kouba Olanga, Rig-rig, Ziguey and Nokoui. It was reported today that the military camps at (Oum Zouher), Gereda, Erba and Mao have also joined GUNT.

Yesterday we were surprised to see the French Air Force attack our positions at Ouadi Doum, which is inside the territories under the control of GUNT. We consider this an act of premeditated aggression by an outside force, a quarter against which GUNT has not in principle declared war. We have been astounded by the French Government's alignment with and participation in and support for the armed rebellion against the legitimate Chadian Government of Goukouni Oueddei. What has taken place is an act of direct aggression by the French forces against GUNT, for we know that Hissein Habre has no Jaguar planes nor pilots who could carry out such a raid.

Asked about retaliation by GUNT against Ndjamena Airport, he said: We represent legitimacy in Chad. We are the legitimate government in Chad. Thus we have the right to retaliate. We also have the right to seek the help of any fraternal or friendly country which can help us in defending the Chadian people. In fact, GUNT led by Goukouni Oueddei has fighter planes. To confirm this fact, a team of foreign journalists visited the regions under GUNT's control where they saw on the spot and verified the actual presence of Chadian fighter planes piloted by Chadian pilots. The testimony of these journalists is there, as they have photographed these planes and pilots. It is our right to use these planes to defend ourselves and to attack the rear bases of Hissein Habre's forces. For we believe that Hissein Habre has been receiving reinforcements at Ndjamena from the imperialist countries which support him.

In reply to a question about the scope of U.S. and French interference in the problems, internal problems, of an African country, the GUNT official spokesman said: As you know, the Ndjamena clique represents the Chadian wing of world imperialism. In this capacity, the Americans and the French can only come to the defense of those who help to consolidate the domination of the African people, particularly the Chadian people. This is part of the imperialist and neocolonialist designs.

Tripoli cites GUNT Spokesman Condemning French Raid

LD181322 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Voice of the Revolutionary Committees]

[Text] In an exclusive statement today to the political affairs editor of Voice of Greater Arab Homeland [VOGAH] the official spokesman of the Chadian Transitional Government of National Unity [GUNT] led by Goukouni Oueddei, stressed that GUNT forces are now in full control of the towns of (Biltil), Arada, (Ragrik), Oum Chalouba, Kouba Olanga, (Telait), Zigey, and Nokoui. He added that the joining of (Um Zuwayr) and Mao military camps with the GUNT forces has been reported.

He condemned the crime committed by the French Government by raiding Ouadi Doum Airport. He said it was an attack supported by foreign forces that have nothing to do with Chad and its people's problems.

In his statement today to VOGAH he stressed that GUNT has fighter planes and Chadian pilots, saying: On the basis of protecting our national territory, we exercised our right to attack the rear bases of the agent Habre forces and completely destroyed Ndjamena Airport. We believe that the rebel Habre is receiving reinforcements at Ndjamena Airport from imperialist countries hostile to the Chadian people which fuels the continuing of the civil war. He blamed France for escalating this war and its disastrous consequences for Africa, especially the pain, sacrifices and losses inflicted on the Chadian people.

African Arab Union Committee Ends Meeting

LD182208 Tripoli JANA in English 1807 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Athani 7, Feb. 18, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY — Yesterday the committee for the unionist development plan, formed by the Economic Council of the Arab-African Union (AAU), concluded its meetings in Tripoli. During its meetings, the committee studied the overall framework of the unionist development plan. In this respect it worked out recommendations for the Permanent Secretariat to be presented to the Economic Council. It also reviewed the trade-exchange papers between the two countries of the union.

MOROCCO

Mauritanian President Arrives for Talks

LD181342 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Mauritanian President Colonel Maayouia Sidi Ahmed Ould Taya, this morning arrived aboard a special plane at El Manara airport in Marrakech. He was welcomed at the airport by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed; Driss Basri, the minister of interior and information, Ahmed Reda Guedira the adviser to his majesty the king; the governor of the province and some local officials. The Mauritanian president is accompanied by the minister of health and by the director of the Presidential Office.

Meets With King

LD182209 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II today received at the royal palace in Marrakech the president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritanian, Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, who arrived in Marrakech this morning. The meeting was attended by his royal highness the Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed.

His majesty the king hosted a luncheon banquet in honor of the Mauritanian head of state attended by his royal highness the Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed, the speaker of the House of Representatives, Ahmed 'Uthman, few member of the government, the king's advisers, and members of the Mauritanian delegation.

Following that the Mauritanian President left Merrakech for his country. He was seen off by his majesty King Hassan II, who was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Sidi Mohamed. He was also seen off by the speaker of the house of representatives, few members of the government, the king's advisers, the governor of Merrakech, and the officials of the local authorities.

TANZANIA

Prime Minister Urges 'Total Commitment' To Namibia

EA152326 Dar Es Salaam External Service in English 1600 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] Dar es Salaam: The prime minister and the first vice-president, Ndugu Joseph Warioba, has called on African countries to reassess the situation in southern Africa and pronounce total commitment to armed struggle for the independence in Namibia. Ndugu Warioba said this today when he met the president of the SWAPO, Ndugu Sam Numoma, at his office in Dar es Salaam.

Ndugu Warioba said the situation in southern Africa was critical and he called for a reassessment and full commitment on the liberation war. He called on the frontline states to seriously look into the affair and state categorically its commitment to the armed struggle for the independence of Namibia.

Mr Nujoma told the premier that south African forces have increased atrocities to civilians in Namibia. The SWAPO president called on African countries to support UN secretary general in his efforts to resolve the Namibian question by scrupulous implementation of the UN Resolution 435.

Mr Nujoma, accompanied by SWAPO's chief representative in Tanzania, Ndugu Nentumbo Ndaitwa, had called on the premier to brief him on the current situation in Namibia.

UGANDA

Retreating Soldiers Kill Civilians, Raid Cattle

EA191105 Nairobi THE STANDARD in English 19 Feb 86 p 1

[Unidentified correspondent report from Kampala]

[Excerpt] Basilio Okello soldiers are reported to be fleeing across the semi-desert Karamojong district, raiding cattle and killing civilians.

Refugees arriving in soroti yesterday said at least seven people were shot dead, and that Basilion Okello's men were sweeping through villages burning down homes. They said the soldiers were taking the cattle towards Abim and Labwor in western Karamoja. Others were driving the cattle through Orungo, Amuria and Obalanga in north-eastern Teso.

The displaced people said the cattle raids were being organised by Lt. Col. Kilama and Capt Odora. Shortly before Mbale and Soroti towns fell to the NRA [National ResistanceArmy] the two officers were said to have used a helicopter in their cattle raids. The latest cattle rustling took place on Monday [17 Feb] morning at Amuria where two people were shot dead and several others injured.

The road to Moroto from Soroti is completely deserted and there are unconfirmed reports that one of the bridges on the road was blown up by Okello's troops.

It is not yet known when the NRA will march towards Moroto. However, more and more trucks are daily ferrying hundreds of NRA fighters to Soroti.

Other sources said in Soroti that the NRA was nowhere near Lira, the home town of Milton Obote. A source within the NRA forces said they were going to attack Lira from all directions. some 10,000 NRA fighters are now camped 37 km on the Soroti-Lira road.

The acting chief administrative secretary of Dr Obote's Uganda Peoples Congress (UPC), Prof Kagyenda Atwoki, has charged that prominent officials and members of his party had been arrested and are being detained without trial.

In a statement to the press, Kagyenda Atwoki, a former don at Makerere University, urged President Museveni to release those arrested or take them to court. he said the UPC members were being held at Kampala's central police station, some for up to two weeks.

Those under detention included: mr Sezibwa Tayali, a UPC supporter from Luwero district; Mr Aston Mugowa, the vice-chairman for UPC Kampala car park and Chairman of several cooperatives; Stephen Kalenzi; Kyawemagezi; A. Nyombi; G.W. Ssali; Hassan Wasswa; C.P. Otim; Godfrey Nzimbe; and Ben Mulasa.

Prof Atwoki charged that the supporters had been arrested by NRA soldiers.

Editorial Calls on Uganda to Welcome Okello Home

EA161724 Nairobi SUNDAY NATION in English 16 Feb 86 p 6

[Editorial: "Tito Okello Should be Allowed Back Home"]

[Text] By all accounts, General Tito Okello is a very gentle human being. Yet, during his short term as head of state, Uganda continued to be characterised by the same chaos and carnage into which the long years of tyranny under Idi Amin Dada had plunged the country.

The probably reason is that the soldiers who overthrew the civilian government of President Milton Obote were the very same unruly individuals who had maintained Uganda as a hecatomb throughout President Obote's second bash at government. They had always been a ragtag army ever since they were hastily put together in 1978 with the sole purpose of overthrowing Idi Amin. Young, hungary and ill remunerated, as soon as they had carried the victory they proceeded to unleash a reign of terror against the people in order to surfeit purely personal interests.

Probably the greatest weakness of that army — of some other African armies as well — was that it had no social motivation. It had not had anything like enough time to imbue itself with the spirit of selfless dedication and service to society.

And none of the successive governments — those of Yusuf Lule, Godfrey Binaisa, Paul Muwanga and Milton Obote — took any conscious step to inculcate in the Army any disciplining sense of purpose, with the result that they continued robbing the people, massacring them at any sign of protest.

There is some evidence that President Obote, while appealing aloud for discipline, often tried to use the army for his own personal purposes. It is reported that it was an attempt to turn it into a personal army, led by members of his own filial clan, that earned him last year's coup.

It is also reported that General Okello himself may not have been the chief instigator of the coup, that it was the work of a scantily educated hothead called Basilio Olara Okello, and that after the coup the NCO's latched on to Tito only because he was the only one among them with anything approaching national stature.

What we know for sure is that Tito Okello never ceased to be impressed by the apparent insuperability of the problems thrust upon him. The fact that the soldiers continued to commit atrocities always filled him with chagrin. But what made him even sadder was that he soon found out that he was personally incapable of ordering a stop to the carnage.

Even before he took power several weeks ago, President Yoweri Museveni himself testified many times that General Tito Okello was a peaceable man who wanted the Nairobi peace Treaty of last year to be implemented, but whose efforts were always being thwarted by his generals and rank and file.

It was instructive that after his overthrow, he kept quiet and did not engage in the bravado characteristic of overthrown potentates. It is reported that he slipped into the Sudan with a following of only eight loyal soldiers and immediately undertook not to abuse Sudanese hospitality by trying to organise an insurgency activity against the Museveni regime.

The other day, a team sent by President Museveni to the Sudan returned with an appeal from Tito Okello that he should be left alone, that nobody should try to involve him an any attempt at rebellion against the Museveni government. He said he wanted to return home to play his part in build a new Uganda.

General Okello, reportedly, is not endowed with very many intellectual resources. But he is an extremely experienced soldier, commanding much respect, high and low, not only throughout Uganda but also in neighboring countries. We are certain that he can contribute much to the Museveni system. For this reason, we are glad that President Museveni has responded to the appeal — upheld by our own President Moi — and is willing to welcome the general back home.

CHAD

Habre Sends Letter to OAU Chairman on Libya Issue

AB191041 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] The situation created by Libya is preoccupying. It is so preoccupying that the president of the Republic himself has sent a letter in this connection to the current OAU chairman, Abdou Diouf. In the letter, the head of state draws the attention of the pan-African organization and its chairman to the dramatic was situation that the terrorist Tripoli regime has imposed on Chad. The wait-and-see attitude of the international community in the face of Libya's challenge encourages the terrorist Tripoli regime to step up its terrorist and aggressive acts of destabilization in the world and particularly in Chad, thus posing a constant threat to peace and world security, in our subregion and in the world.

Acting with impunity, the president of the Republic further says in his letter to the OAU chairman, Al-Qadhdhafi's regime is pursuing an escalation of the situation in northern Chad. This new aggression against Chad has been carefully prepared and is aimed at foiling the fruitful efforts of countries friendly to Chad, which resulted in the Libreville accords on national reconciliation. Through its action, the Tripoli regime hopes to be able to complete its expansionist enterprise in Chad, about half of whose territory is under occupation in flagrant violation of the OAU and UN Charters.

In the face of the very situation caused by Libya, the president goes on to say in the letter, the Chadian Government urgently appeals to all member-states to use their power so that the inalienable rights of the Chadian people will be respected by the Tripoli terrorist, fascist, and expansionist regime.

A copy of the president's letter was sent to the president of the UN Security Council by the secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, Hamed Korom, who has justified to the Chadian people the French military assistance sought by Chad to repulse Libya's aggression in conformity to France's commitments toward Chad. The assistance was also sought in the face of the unjustified and unprovoked military aggression of the Tripoli regime against Chad. Hamed Korom informed the president of the Security Council about the destruction by the French Air Force of the Ouadi Doum airfield inside the Chadian territory, which served as a springboard for Libya's military operations against Chad, about the troops captured by the Chadian National Armed Forces, and the bombing of Ndjamena airport as evidence in Chad's case against Libya.

Officials To Visit Foreign Countries, Convey Messages

AB190928 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] The president of the Republic and founding chairman of the National Union for Independence and Revolution [UNIR], who remains clear-headed in the face of the repeated aggressions of the Libyan regular troops against our people and who has an acute sense of cooperation, good-neighborliness, dialogue, and permanent consultations between our ccountry and other friendly and brotherly African countries, has sent many emissaries with messages to several African capitals.

In this line, Hamed Korom, member of the Central Committee and secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, will visit Algiers, Tunis, and Addis Ababa. Similarly, Mahamat Nouri, member of the UNIR Central Committee, will visit Cairo and Khartoum, while Taher Guinassou, member of the Central Committee and minister of animal husbandary and water resources is going to convey messages from the president of the Republic to the Niger president and to King Hassan II. Moussa Seif Adoum and (Abdul) Salim, — both Central Committee members — minister of economy and commerce and the president's special adviser respectively in this order will visit Yaounde and Lagos.

French Military Disposition Near Completion

AB181729 Paris AFP in French 1529 GMT 18 Feb 86

[By AFP special correspondent Jean-Claude Chapon]

[Text] Ndjamena, 18 Feb (AFP) — The disposition of the French military force in Chad will be completed this evening and the disposition will thus be operational for "the most part," French sources said today in Ndjamena.

This "deterrent" force, the same sources said, will be based essentially on its air component. As from today, the French Air Force was expected to comprise 12 Jaguar and Mirage F-1 air craft. The KC-135 tankers and the Breguet Atlantique monitoring aircraft are expected in the next few days when the runway at Ndjamena airport, damaged yesterday in a Libyan air raid, will be reopened to large carrier aircraft.

Air Force Colonel Hector Pissochet has been appointed commander of the French troops taking part in that operation codenamed "Sparrow-hawk."

In its present disposition, the French military force requires the presence of about 500 troops. According to an authoritative French source, however, some 1,500 ground troops and paratroopers of the Marine Infantry now in the CAR could be brought in and positioned "in the shortest possible time," should the need arise.

Since Monday, a virtual airlift has been linking the CAR capital Bangui to Ndjamena. It is recalled that the Transalls are the only transport aircraft capable of landing at Ndjamena, as the runway at the airport remains prohibited [interdite] to large carrier aircraft. The repair work on this runway, which French soldiers say was damaged by a 2,000 kilogramme bomb, is going on actively both day and night. Large transport aircraft could use it again by Tuesday evening or at the latest Wednesday morning, according to a reliable source.

After the Libyan bomb attack, the Ndjamena authorities have denounced "the indifference and guilty silence of certain states and international organizations" in a communique. The communique also calls on "all peace-loving and justice-seeking countries to support Chad." It also asks the OAU, the United Nations, and the Islamic Conference to "take their responsibilities by making clearcut pronouncements" on the conflict that "is opposing Chad and Libya."

At the same time, official sources say that the situation in the north of the country is calm. According to Ndjamena, the enemy troops who were defeated in last week's fighting in the 16 parallel area, have "fallen back in confusion, towards the north." However, according to Ndjamena, the persistence of Libyan movements between southern Libya and northern Chad show "that Tripoli has not yet learned a lesson."

Foreign Ministry Says Ndjamena Airport in Use

AB190848 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Concerning the bombing of the Ndjamena Airport, a CCA communique issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation has said that repair work has begun and that planes have begun landing there again.

GUNT Spokesman Claims Control of Chadian Towns

AB181524 Paris AFP in English 1450 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Paris, Feb 18 (AFP) — The official spokesman for the Chadian rebel Transitional National Union Government (GUNT) claimed in a radio interview from Libya today that his movement controlled several settlements in government-held territory.

The radio, monitored in Paris, said GUNT forces, which have controlled the northern half of Chad with Libyan backing since 1983, had seized eight localities spanning nearly the full width of the central african country. All the towns lie south of the 16th parallel, which marks the division between the rebel-held north and the government-controlled south.

The GUNT claim contradicted earlier statements by French and Chadian authorities that a rebel offensive last week on government areas had been repulsed.

Among the towns mentioned by GUNT today were Zigey in the west, Kouba Oulanga, on the central road from the capital, Ndjamena, to the major northern oasis of Faya-Largeau, and Oum Chalouba, 750 km (470 miles) northeast of Ndjamena on the country's second main north-south road. The three towns were among four settlements the rebels claimed to have captured in the offensive launched February 10.

Other towns mentioned today included Nokou, in the far west near Lake Chad, and Arada, which is the last major settlement on the road from Oum Chalouba to a key government garrison in Biltine.

The rebel spokesman, quoted by Radio Tripoli, also said that GUNT had a force of combat planes flown by Chadian pilots and would be within its rights to attack rear bases of the Habre government. He repeated claims that a Tupolev bomber, which yesterday attacked the Ndjamena airport, belonged to GUNT and that the airfield had been "totally destroyed."

Western military experts have countered that only Libya has the Soviet-made bombers in the region and that the propeller-driven fighters with which GUNT is known to be equipped could not have reached Ndjamena.

The spokesman went on to call on the Chadian people to "mobilize in support of the valiant struggle for national liberation," and accused France of having imperialist designs in Chad.

GUNT Communique on Air Strike; Urges Final Attack

AB181632 Paris AFP in French 1339 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Paris, 18 Feb (AFP) — The Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] (armed opposition to Chadian President Hissein Habre) issued a communique in Paris on Tuesday stating that the bombardment of Ndjamena airport on Monday was carried out by a "Chadian squadron," and appealed for mobilization for the "final attack" of its forces against "the suffering hordes of Ndjamena."

This communique, which was released by the GUNT representative in Paris with a Bardai (northern Chad) dateline, and that "was signed by the GUNT information minister in Chad," said that the "bombardment of the French military base at Ndjamena on 17 February" was an "energetic reprisal" to the French bombing of "the Ouadi Doum civilian airstrip," which represents an "escalation of French imperialist aggression." Also in the communique, Goukouni Oueddei's movement called on "all heroic fighters in the armed struggle in the center, the east, the west, and south (of Chad), and those in the rear bases, to be vigilant and exercise revolutionary determination in the Chadian people's liberation war."

The GUNT also asserted that "the French government alone was responsible for the catastrophic consequences of the aggression perpetrated by French imperialism." The movement finally reiterated "its constant readiness" to seek a "negotiated solution to the Chadian problem," but that "it reserved the right to respond energetically to any form of imperialist aggression."

The GUNT representative in Paris said on Monday, the day after the bombardment of Uadi Doum by the French Air Force, that his movement and its allies would retaliate "each time this was necessary."

BENIN

$8 Million Loan Agreement Signed With BADEA

AB142246 Dakar PANA in English 1143 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Khartoum, 14 (PANA) — Benin has secured a loan of 8 million U.S. dollars from the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) for the partial financing of a road project connecting the southern part of the country to the north.

The agreement for the loan was signed yesterday at BADEA Headquarters in Khartoum by Mr Zul-Kifl Salami, minister in charge of planning in the office of the president of Benin, and Dr Chedly Ayari, president of the bank.

The money will finance 34 percent of the 161 kms portion of road between Save and Parakou, one of the two sections of the Dassa-Parakou stretch on the Cotonou-Malanville road connecting southern Benin to the northern part of the country. It will cover the asphalting cost and the consultancy service for the supervision of the project. The project will contribute to Benin's economic integration and development as well as to the development of the neighbouring landlocked countries.

The BADEA loan is repayable in 13 years, including a 5-year grace period, and carries an annual interest rate of 6 percent.

The loan brings to $39,163,000 BADEA's commitment to Benin so far. The country has also received Arab assistance totalling $109,600,000 from 1973-84.

BURKINA FASO

Sankara Receives CEAO Deputy Secretary

AB142146 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Within the framework of the 11th summit of the West African Economic Community [CEAO], which will take place in March in our country, the CEAO current chairman, Captain Thomas Sankara, president of Burkina Faso, yesterday afternoon granted a lengthy audience to the CEAO deputy secretary general, Mohamed Abdal (Ani) Ould Mohamed Ahmed, with whom he held a working session.

Issues examined during the session centered on preparations for the summit, technical dossiers to be examined during the summit, and the instructions by the current CEAO chairman concerning successful proceedings of the 11th summit. Listen to the deputy secretary general presenting the program of the various meetings, and airing his views on the preparations for the 11th summit:

[Begin Ahmed recording] Concerning the preparations at the level of the secretariat general, all the dossiers are ready and have been sent to the member-states within the prescribed time. From next Monday until late March, we will hold successive meetings, that is meetings of experts, boards of directors, council of ministers, and the summit meeting of the heads of state. The meetings concern all the economic activities of the member-states of the Community. For instance, from Monday, 17 February, 1986, we will hold a meeting of the ad hoc committee of experts to review the agreements on regional cooperation taxes and examine proposals for new financial resources.

On Monday, 24 February, 1986, the 35th session of the technical experts committee will begin. This meeting is an important one because it concerns the subcommittees charged with cooperation in the field of trade, rural development, industrial development, administrative and financial affairs, and problems relating to the Solidarity and Intervention Fund for the Development of the Community [FOSIDEC].

We will also hold a meeting of the ad hoc committee of experts on the harmonization of the investments codes which begins on (?10 March).

Also on 10 March, 1986, the meeting of the FOSIDEC alternate administrators will begin. Just after this meeting, the meeting of the council of ministers will take place from 17 to 23 March, 1986, which will be followed by the conference of heads of state. [end recording]

Justice Minister Returns From Cuba, Comments

AB182130 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Captain Blaise Compaore, minister of state delegated to the presidency of Burkina Faso and minister of justice, has returned from Cuba where he attended the 3d congress of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC]. This morning, the comrade minister met with the national press to give an account of his mission to Cuba — a mission whose objectives were greatly achieved. Let us listen to him:

[Begin Compaore recording] We visited Cuba. Our visit was devoted to one main area — that is to deliver the greetings of the National Council of the Revolution [CNR] and of its chairman to the PCC which was holding its 3d congress from 4 to 7 February. Secondly, it gave us the opportunity to contact the Cuban authorities to discuss the strengthening of cooperation between Cuba and Burkina Faso. This 3d congress, which took place after those of 1975 and 1979, discussed important issues, for example the election of the members of the leadership organ [words indistinct] which is on the program of the PCC. It is at this congress that the PCC presented a draft program. Certainly, apart from that, there were several other discussions and resolutions, notably concerning the amelioration of the system of planning and utilization of the economy; there was also a draft resolution on the orientation of the economy of a 5-year development plan which will soon begin, a draft resolution on the amelioration of the political and administrative organization of the republic, and certainly, the last resolution on international politics. [end recording]

GUINEA

Citizens No Longer Need Exit Visas, Permits

AB172225 Dakar PANA in English 1606 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Conakry, 17 Feb (AGP-GUI/PANA) — Guineans will no longer be required to obtain exit visas or permits before leaving the country.

Fode Moussa Sylla, chief of the country's border guard security forces told PANA that the measure is in line with the government's determination to ensure that human rights are respected in the country.

Old Guinean passports are presently being replaced with new ones, and estimates for printing costs rest at 3 million dollars.

Before the military took over, Guineans were required to apply for exit visas from the Ministry of Interior. The application was then submitted to a commission for acceptance or refusal.

IVORY COAST

France's Penne Briefs President on Chad 14 Feb

AB141514 Paris AFP in French 1325 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Abidjan, 14 Feb (AFP) — Mr Guy Penne, special adviser on African affairs to French President Francois Mitterrand, held discussions with President Houphouet-Boigny on Friday morning during a brief stopover in Abidjan. Diplomatic sources say Mr Penne informed the Ivorian head of state particularly on the situation in Chad and the arrangements taken by the French Government in accordance with its agreement with Ndjamena. Mr Penne, who is presently touring Africa and who had come over from Togo, left immediately for Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Foreign Minister Receives Israeli Officials

AB141200 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 14 Feb 86 p 30

[Excerpt] Ivorian Foreign Minister Simeon Ake has received Mr Shim'on Agur and Mr Yitzhak Minervi, respectively Israeli charge d'affaires in our country and Israeli ambassador to Ivory Coast from 1967 to 1971. The foreign minister took the opportunity to stress that our country does not have any intention to renounce the principles of peace. Peace is possible through dialogue, he said.

It is our wish that the peace process will be expanded and developed as in the past, replied the Israeli representatives. On the whole, the two parties agreed to maintain bilateral relations on the basis of respect for each country's territorial integrity.

LIBERIA

Details Requested on Duvalier Asylum Request

AB181822 Paris AFP in French 1646 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Monrovia, 18 Feb (AFP) — Liberia has asked the French Government for details in order to determine whether the application for political asylum for former Haitian President Jean-Claude Duvalier was from the former head himself or from France [words indistinct] Mr Ledlum, the Liberian deputy minister of foreign affairs.

It will be recalled that the Liberian minister of foreign affairs, J. Bernard Blamo, announced on Friday that his government had received a "diplomatic note" from the French authorities on Monrovia's possible granting of asylum to Jean-Claude Duvalier.

Mr Ledlum also denied rumors circulating in Monrovia that the former dictator and his immediate family would arrive in Monrovia on Tuesday.

Jackson Doe Interviewed After Release

MB142226 London BBC World Service in English 1709 GMT 14 Feb 86

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Jackson Doe, leader of the opposition Liberian Action Party was freed from jail last night some 26 hours after a court dismissed treason charges against him and ordered his release. He has been in jail since the abortive coup attempt last November. His release leaves only one opposition leader behind bars, Jackson Doe's colleague Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Her case case has been referred to the criminal court. On the line, Rick Wells spoke briefly to Jackson Doe and asked him how he reacted to his release.

[Begin recording] [Doe] I am grateful to God, I am grateful to the party, and I am grateful to the lawyers as well as those who prayed for me.

[Wells] How was it in detention? How were you treated?

[Doe] Well, in detention — I was there for about 3 months — I was not tortured, except for fever, then malaria, I did not get seriously sick.

[Wells] What about the condition of your colleague, Ellen Sirleaf Johnson? How is she?

[Doe] She is trying to hold on. You know, it is not a pleasant thing to be there, but she is trying to keep up. I will hope that she would get out and she will be better.

[Wells] Is she confident that, she will like you be released soon?

[Doe] Well, the case will be coming up shortly and I think the lawyers are hopeful she will get out.

Doe To Submit Bill for Privatization of Corporations

AB182052 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
1710 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] The president of Liberia, Dr Samuel K. Doe, is to submit a bill to the national legislature to privatize or sell shares in a number of public corporations. According to the national radio station quoting a press release from the press secretary, this was disclosed today when Dr Doe addressed the joint session of the legislature at the Capitol during a short visit. The bill will affect several corporations which government considers a drain on the public sector. Dr Doe said the submission of the bill was a further manifestation of government's desire to improve the nation's economic situation. He also said that the bill to be submitted shortly to the lawmakers will include a proposal for government to discontinue subsidy to all public corporations within fiscal year 1986-1987.

Dr Doe hoped that when the bill is passed, the action will afford our citizens, interested investors, and our partners in progress an opportunity to fully participate in the development process through the outright purchase and joint-venture agreements of these corporations.

NIGERIA

GUNT Delegation Arrives for Talks With Babangida

AB171844 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] The leader of one of the factions in the Chadian crisis, Mr Goukouni Oueddei, has sent a delegation to President Ibrahim Babangida, ostensibly to seek political support from the Federal Government. A member of the delegation, Mr Oumar, told airport correspondents that they wanted France to withdraw its troops from Chad to afford Chadians a chance to settle their domestic problems. He said the team had been to France and Gabon before coming to Nigeria.

Meets With Akinyemi

AB181614 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1500 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Nigeria says she will continue to open all lines of communication with all parties involved in the Chadian conflict in an effort to evolve a peace process. The minister of external affairs, Professor Bolaji Akinyemi, stated this today in Lagos shortly after meeting with a 4-man delegation from the Goukouni Oueddei faction of the Chadian conflict. He explained that he received the delegation to further demonstrate the Federal Government's belief that the dispute would be best resolved by Chadians themselves. Prof Akinyemi pledged that Nigeria was ready to facilitate the peace process but would not impose any solution on the people of Chad.

On whether Nigeria was planning to hold another all-party conference to bring together all the factions, the minister said Nigeria would not convene such a meeting unless all the parties gave their consent.

Prof Akinyemi denied allegations that the delegation was not welcomed on arrival yesterday, pointing out that the team was received at the proper level at Murtala Mohammed Airport by the deputy chief of protocol. Since it was not a government delegation he said, it was not received at a higher level than that.

The delegation was led by Mr Acheikh ibn Oumar who briefed the minister on the purpose of the visit.

Also in Lagos today, the Chadian National People's Peace Committee issued a statement calling for an immediate ceasefire. It also called for an end to foreign intervention in the Chadian conflict. The chairman of the committee, Mr Youssouf Amba Amamou, told a Radio Nigeria correspondent that the committee would want all the factions in the conflict to come together and discuss their common problems in the interest of the their country. He said the problem in Chad was surmountable because it was man-made.

Cooperation Talks With Sierra Leone Begin

AB151142 Lagos Domestic Service in English
2100 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Nigeria and Sierra Leone yesterday in Lagos began talks aimed at strengthening economic relations between them. President Babangida told officials of both countries at the opening session to finalize arrangements for economic, scientific and technical cooperation. Such an agreement, he said, will (?pave the way) for the establishment of a Nigeria-Sierra Leone joint commission. General Babangida also stressed the need for both countries to strengthen trade links and conclude negotiations [words indistinct] an air service between them. The Sierra Leonean leader, President Joseph Momoh, expressed gratitude to the government and people of Nigeria for the assistance they had always given to his country. [passage indistinct] He stated that his country was prepared to accept proposals from Nigeria to exploit (?mineral deposits) in Sierra Leone's territorial waters. The Sierra Leonean leader will tomorrow visit military establishments in Jaji and Kaduna. This is his first visit outside Sierra Leone since he became president in November.

A Radio Nigeria correspondent recalls that both Presidents Babangida and Momoh were coursemates at the Nigerian Defense Academy, Kaduna in 1962.

Presidents Meet; Communique Issued

AB161712 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1500 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Nigeria and Sierra Leone are to conclude without further delay negotiations on five major agreements. They are an economic, scientific, and technical cooperation agreement, an air service agreement, and a fishing rights agreement. Others are trade agreement, and a cultural and education agreement.

In a communique issued in Lagos today at the end of an official visit to Nigeria, President Joseph Momoh of Sierra Leone and his host, President Ibrahim Babangida, noted with satisfaction, the warm and excellent relations existing between the two countries. They expressed their determination to forge further closer relations based on constant consultations and sustained cooperation.

The two presidents reaffirmed their confidence in ECOWAS as an effective instrument for a collective fight against poverty and underdevelopment in the subregion. They stressed the need for member states to honor their financial obligations to ECOWAS to enable the organization to meet the laudable objective of improving the economic well-being of the people of the subregion.

Presidents Babangida and Momoh reaffirmed their support for world efforts aimed at countering the problems of drought, famine, and external debts of African countries, and appealed to the international community to increase assistance to the continent.

On the outbreak of hostilities in Chad, the two leaders called for an immediate cease-fire and the withdrawal of all foreign troops from the country. They called on the Chadian leaders to rise above sectional interests and put an end to the civil strife.

Turning to southern Africa, the two leaders condemned the sinister and destructive method of repression employed by the racist regime in South Africa. They said that the apartheid regime's continued aggression, destabilization, and economic blackmail was merely an attempt to frighten the Frontline States from offering sanctuary to its opponents.

The two presidents reaffirmed their belief that mandatory comprehensive economic sanctions would pressurize the apartheid regime to dismantle the obnoxious system.

President Joseph Momoh expressed profound gratitude to the people of Nigeria for the genuine hospitality accorded him and his entourage, and extended an invitation to President Ibrahim Babangida to pay an official visit to Sierra Leone.

Speaking at a state banquet held in honor of President Momoh in Lagos last night, President Babangida called on Nigeria and Sierra Leone to develop closer ties that would serve as a model for other African countries. General Babangida noted that they were both class mates at the military academy and this, he said, emphasized [words indistinct] of their personal friendship. He said that the agreements reached between them on scientific, technical, and cultural cooperation, as well as aviation and manpower training, should serve as a solid foundation. Gen Babangida also called for greater cooperation among developing countries. He noted that Third World countries should strive for greater ties because international economy was dominated by [words indistinct]. President Babangida announced that government was intensifying efforts to ensure the effective development and utilization of the country's resources.

Responding, Major Momoh expressed the hope that his visit would make for the intensification of exchanges between the two countries in the area of trade and commerce under a legal framework. He said that African countries looked up to Nigeria to spearhead action in areas of crucial importance to the continent, especially the situation in southern Africa. The Sierra Leonean leader described as sinister recent developments in the region [word indistinct] by the virtual blockade of Lesotho and the cross border raids by racist forces to destabilize the Frontline States. Gen Momoh stated that the Western world, as champions of human rights and democracy, owed the people of Africa a duty to ensure that human rights and democracy were enjoyed not by a few but by all the people of South Africa regardless of their race and color.

Before leaving Lagos for home today, the Sierra Leonean leader and his wife worshipped at the Methodist Church, Lagos.

Mauritanian Envoy's Wife Arrested for Currency Deal

AB150932 Lagos Domestic Service in English
0600 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] The wife of the second counselor in the Mauritania Embassy has been arrested in Lagos for alleged currency trafficking. She was apprehended by security men at the Murtala Mohamed International Airport with three boxes, one of which allegedly contained 589,960 naira in old Nigerian currency.

The woman arrived in the country aboard an Air Afrique aircraft from Bamako, Mali. Security men also arrested the woman's husband who was at the airport to welcome her. They were, however, released after making useful statements to security officials at the airport.

Ministry Reacts to Rawlings' 'Offensive Statement'

AB181655 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1500 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] The Federal Government has expressed surprise at a statement credited to the Ghanaian leader, Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, in which he accused Nigeria of being an agent of imperialism. The Ministry of External Affairs said in Lagos today that the government was amazed by such a statement from the head of state of a brother West African country with which Nigeria had enjoyed friendly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation even before independence. The ministry pointed out that it was not part of the tradition of Nigerian diplomacy to trade insults with anybody, but reminded Ghana that civility was not a sign of weakness.

The offensive statement by the Ghanaian leader was made during the conference of the Organization of African Trade Union Unity held in Accra last week.

Planning Minister Cited on Budget, Oil Prices

AB151856 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1500 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] The disbursement of funds to federal ministries and agencies will now be based on the rate at which they submit performance report. Already, forms on which the ministries and agencies will make their performance reports have been designed. The minister of national planning, Dr Kalu I. Kalu, told newsmen in Lagos yesterday that the measure was to hasten the implementation of various programs and projects contained in this year's budget. He said that modalities for monitoring the budget's implementation have been worked out by his ministry.

On the possibility of working out contingency plans to save the 1986 budget in the event of a further decline in the prices of crude oil, the minister said that it was difficult to plan for the vagaries of the volatile oil market. He stated, however, that the budget has a measure of control built into it, and that it will be implemented to the degree of available resources.

Dr Kalu, who said that budget planners did not anticipate that the price of crude oil would fall as low as $16 per barrel, maintained that it was too early to start thinking of revising the entire budget.

SENEGAL

Communique Issued on Cooperation Meeting With Mali

AB141115 Dakar PANA in French 1400 GMT 13 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Dakar, 13 Feb (APS-SEN/PANA) — The seventh session of the great Senegalese-Malian joint commission ended on Wednesday evening with a reaffirmation of the desire of Dakar and Bamako to further strengthen their cooperation in all fields by revitalizing the activities of this joint platform for exchange of views.

The session of the great commission was held in Dakar parallel to the official visit of Alioune Blondin Beye, Malian minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, to Senegal from 7 to 12 February.

In a communique issued at the end of the visit, the two sides reiterated their desire to develop and intensify subregional cooperation within existing subregional and regional organizations, in particular the OMVS [Senegal River Development Organization], the CEAO [West African Economic Community], the ICDCS [Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel] and the ECOWAS.

On the situation in Africa and the world, in conformity with the directives of the Senegalese and Malian presidents, and in an atmosphere of identical views, the two delegations reaffirmed that international peace and security can only be achieved through the respect of the principles of the OAU and the United Nations, in particular through the peaceful settlement of conflicts and the noninterference in the domestic affairs of other states.

During the session, a critical examination was made of and plans mapped out for the following areas: cultural affairs, information, social development, trade exchanges, industrial development, rural development, transport, environmental protection, tourism, and water resources.

All bottlenecks were removed and the balance sheet of our bilateral cooperation is very positive, Malian Foreign Minister Blondin Beye said at the end of the meeting. Blondin Beye expressed happiness in particular because his country will no longer be isolated, thanks to the Dakar-Bamako roadway for which financing of surveys has been obtained.

There is also the forthcoming air link between the two capitals by Air Senegal airline. There is also the waterway. The Senegal River, after the construction of the Diama dam, will become another access route, parallel to the traditional railroad. The Malian foreign minister assured the Senegalese authorities that his country will keep its place at the Dakar port.

2-Year Cultural Agreement Signed With PRC

AB172235 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Excerpt] China and Senegal are now officially linked by a 2-year cultural exchange draft agreement which was signed by the two sides this morning. Concerning the agreement, the Senegalese minister of culture, Makhily Gassama, expects a lot.

[Begin Gassama recording] As stated previously, the agreement will help strengthen links between the PRC and the Republic of Senegal through cultural exchanges. What do exchanges consist of? Concerning all the aspects of the cultural sector, we tried to concretely and realistically provide for a number of actions, particularly the exchange of experts and radio and television programs which will be broadcast in both countries for a better mutual knowledge of the two countries. We also provided for the exchange of films through the organization of Senegalese film weeks in China, and Chinese film weeks here in Senegal. In the field of training, we provided for the exchange of students through the granting of Chinese scholarships to Senegalese students in various artistic sectors to study in China, and Senegalese scholarships to Chinese students who would like to be informed on the cultural realities of this country, and who could be good messengers in China after completing their studies. [End recording]

LESOTHO

Lekhanya Meets Diplomatic Corps in Maseru

MB131515 Maseru Domestic Service in English
1130 GMT 13 Feb 86

[Text] The chairman of the Military Council of Lesotho and chairman of the Council of Ministers, His Excellency Major General Metsing Lekhanya, this morning met with members of the diplomatic corps resident in Maseru for the first time since the military took over power in the country.

During the meeting, which he said was one of acquaintance, Maj Gen Lekhanya said the new administration of Lesotho welcomed the presence of the members of the diplomatic corps among the Basotho.

He assured them of the government's assistance at all times to promote cooperation and friendship with the people of Lesotho. The chairman of the Military Council further said that the outlines of the policies of the new administration had been stated by the head of state, his majesty, King Moshoeshoe II, and by the council in its statements.

He stressed that the new adminstration was committed to working for peace and true reconciliation among the Basotho. He said the new government stands for economic development, in collaboration with all friendly countries and agencies, both regional and international.

Maj Gen Lekhanya asked the diplomats to feel free to discuss [words indistinct] all matters of common interest, using the accepted and usual channel of communication. He wished them happy and fruitful days of service in Lesotho.

The chairman was accompanied by four members of the Military Council, Colonel Tsotetsi, Colonel Ramaema, Colonel Mosoeunyane, and Colonel Nako Letsie, and the minister of finance and acting minister of foreign affairs, the Honorable E.R. Sekhonyana.

Delegation Leaves for Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal

MB181223 Maseru Domestic Service in English
1130 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] A high-powered special mission consisting of His Excellency Colonel A.K. Mosoeunyane, a member of the Military Council, and the Honorable Dr M.M. Sefali, minister for economic affairs and Planning, left Maseru to day for Nairodi, Lagos, and Dakar.

In Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, the mission will deliver messages from his majesty to President Daniel Arap Moi, in Lagos, Nigeria, Ibrahim Babangida; and in Dakar, Senegal, to the current chairman of the OAU and head of state of Senegal, President Abdou Diouf. It is expected that the mission will also have opportunity to confer with the heads of state of the three countries and cement relations of friendship and cooperation between them and Lesotho.

Another for Ethiopia, Algeria

MB131253 Maseru Domestic Service in English
1130 GMT 13 Feb 86

[Text] A special mission consisting of two members of the Council of Ministers left Maseru this afternoon for Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, and Algiers in Algeria, to deliver messages from his majesty to the secretary general of the OAU, Mr Ide Omarou, who is based in Addis Ababa, and the head of state of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid.

The mission, comprising the minister of labor and manpower development, the Honorable Colonel (Blight Ntsume), and the minister of information and broadcasting, the honorable (V. M. Malebu) is part of the continuing process of reaffirming ties of friendship with African countries.

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Receives Visiting Lesotho Delegation

MB131751 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1700 GMT 13 Feb 86

[Text] President Samora Machel received a delegation from the Kingdom of Lesotho in Maputo this afternoon.

The Lesotho delegation is headed by Lieutenant Colonel Thaabe Letsie, who is a member of the Military Council. The delegation handed over a message from King Moshoeshoe II to President Samora Machel. The message informed the Mozambican head of state on the reasons which led to the overthrow of the Leabua Jonathan government by the military authorities.

Thaabe Letsie also spoke about changes in Lesotho after the coup d'etat and stressed the anti-apartheid line of the new government. He also reiterated his country's commitment to the observance of all international principles and obligations, especially in regard to SADCC.

In turn, President Samora Machel said that Mozambique will continue to develop its good relations with Lesotho. The Mozambican head of state was accompanied by Joaquim Chissano, the Mozambican minister of foreign affairs.

The Lesotho delegation also included the minister of foreign affairs and the Lesotho ambassador accredited in Maputo. The delegation has already visited other countries in southern Africa to inform them on the situation in the country after the military coup d'etat last month.

Dos Santos: Sofal Workers To Be Sent to Front

MB171648 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1830 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Statement at a press conference by Major General Marcelino dos Santos, member of the Frelimo Party Political Bureau and leader of Sofala Province, in Beira City; date not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] The victory of Gorongosa must be viewed in the context of the broad offensive which was launched throughout the country on all fronts and especially on the military, economic, and diplomatic fronts.

This is the task, the great task, that is being carried out here in our country, and particularly here in Sofala province. If we take this view of the struggle against the armed bandits, we will see that this struggle is closely linked to the struggle for production. And it is no coincidence, therefore, that Comrade President Samora Machel launched a generalized offensive on the military, economic, and diplomatic fronts. These fronts are closely linked to one another. More exactly, they are interrelated, be they military, economic or diplomatic actions. These demands have forced us to search for specific solutions to fulfill what has been described as a war economy. As the comrades may recall, the great watchwords adopted by the fourth congress were: defend the fatherland, overcome underdevelopment, and build socialism. However, to do this at this stage we all must understand that the main form of struggle is the armed struggle. This means the same situation that we experienced throughout the revolutionary armed struggle for national liberation. This means that when we say that the armed struggle is the main form of our struggle, all other activities are secondary. That is why we say today that there is a need to wage war in order to create well-being, defend independence and sovereignty, and build peace.

That is why it is also necessary to develop the organization of the people's militia. This is a very important point if we take into account that there was no compulsory military service in our country, that is, we are faced with a large number of our people, who are older than 18, older than 25, and older than 30, but who do not know the technique and art of war.

One must always be vigilant because as long as imperialism exists there is always the possibility of aggression against the people. Thus people must organize themselves [words indistinct]. Naturally, in the capitalist countries there is no need for this. However, in a socialist country this is possible and necessary. Thus in our country, it is possible and necessary to organize the people's militia. We have simply to provide the training for the people's militia. As you know, we had difficulties in training centers and in making all 18-year-olds perform their compulsory military service and training. We are now making great efforts to have training camps in all provinces so that they may be trained. This is the present situation, which did not prevail in the past. We still are experiencing difficulties. All over the country, you can see the training of the people's militia and here in Beira city, for example, we have the (?golf course) center, which is very well known. This is precisely to give basic training to the workers, so that they can guarantee the defense of working and residential areas and patrol Beira city.

Therefore, the workers must also be prepared for defensive actions. To be more exact, we will say that to participate in offensive actions, militia training at the (?golf course) in Beira city is not enough. There are places in our province where the training of militiamen is practically identical to the training of soldiers. This happens in a number of districts.

However, the training given at the (?golf course) is special, specifically meant to ensure the defense of working and residential areas as well as the patrolling of the city. Thus, those who have only had the training given at the (?golf course) should be trained for about 1 month so that they may know a bit better or, rather, so that they may gain a better insight about strategy when we talk about war.

Training in Beira city is obviously different from training here at the (?golf course). We have to take these workers to the Dondo military training center for a period of 1 month, for example. This is in regard to the people's militia and workers.

Those workers who have already undergone training for offensive actions for 1, 2, or 3 months each year should participate in frontline offensive actions. By this, I mean the workers of all enterprises, be they small or large enterprises. The size does not matter. What matters is this: Let us take an enterprise which has 50 workers, for example. Let us say that each worker will be at the front for 1 or 2 months a year, so that the enterprise may continue functioning. Within this framework, 5 or 10 workers would go, or for example 5 workers in 50 would go every month [words indistinct]. Six or eight workers would go for a 2-month stint, some coming, others going.

It is obvious that all workers will not be going alone. I am talking about small enterprises, because an enterprise like the Beira Naval Repair Works, for example, is already a big enterprise. It has 1,000 workers. Instead of sending 5 or 8 workers, it can, for example, send 50 workers to the front every month.

An enterprise like the Mafambisse sugar estates can send one company, even two companies, totaling about 120, 150 or 300 men, depending on whether each company includes 90 or 150 men. They should then send one or two companies every 2 months that can go to the front and return.

However, when it is only one company, for instance, well, one company already constitutes one body which can be given a task, an action, or an area where it will participate in offensive actions against the enemy. However, if it is only five or six workers they can not do that.

We are not only advancing ideas when we talk like this. We are not just saying nice things that ought to be done. We are referring to tasks which are already being carried out in a number of enterprises and not just here in Sofala Province, where the main example is provided by the Metuchira enterprise, but in various parts of the country. Comrade President Samora Machel himself held meetings with directors and mangers of a number of enterprises on these issues. These meetings centered on the experiences which the country is currently undergoing in this process of developing a war economy. It has been found that the enterprises which follow this procedure of training their workers and which accept these guidelines, sending one worker today, another one tomorrow, and so on throughout the year until all workers have been to the front, are the ones which produce, defend themselves, and eliminate the armed bandits.

NAMIBIA

Supreme Court Dismisses SWAPO Application

MB131128 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1127 GMT 13 Feb 86

[Text] Windhoek, Feb 13, SAPA — The Windhoek supreme court today dismissed an application by seven SWAPO members seeking to invalidate a charge sheet against them because it was in conflict with a bill of fundamental rights embodied in the South African state president's Proclamation R101, which instituted the SWA/Namibian transitional government last June.

The men are to be charged in terms of section of the Terrorism Act and the Suppression of Communism Act.

The accused are Mr Frans Angula, 28, Mr Norbet Ankome, 25, Mr Elkan Simon, 21, Mr Bernardinus Shikongo, 47, Mr Desiderius Ankome, 26, Mr Erastus Uutoni, 28, and Mr Vilho Kashilulu, 22.

According to the charge sheet, which runs to 114 pages, the state alleges they were connected with or had knowledge of a series of acts of sabotage in SWA/Namibia, including a bomb blast at Okatana service station in the north of the territory in April 1984.

Two United States diplomats, Mr Dennis Keogh and Lt-Col Kenneth Crabtree, died in the explosion.

Defence Counsel Mr Ian Farlam, SC [Senior Counsel], submitted in argument earlier that Proclamation R101 susperseded all security laws in SWA/Namibia which were not consonant with the bill of rights, which provided for freedom of speech and freedom of association, among other things.

In his ruling today, Mr Justice Johan Strydom, said Proclamation R101 should not be regarded as a sovereign constitution act and other laws from which it became clear that the South African state president and the South African Parliament retained certain legislative powers over the territory.

The powers of the SWA/Namibian National Assembly remained subject to the legislative powers of the two South african legislatures. In consequence, laws such as the Terrorism Act and the Suppression of Communism Act remained in force until they were repealed by a "competent authortiy (bevoedge Gesag)."

SOUTH AFRICA

Paper Says Mandela Release Already Decided

MB190606 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0500 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] The *BUSINESS DAY* nespaper reports the government may release Mr Nelson Mandela before a prisoner exchange is arranged. Senior government sources say the decision to release the jailed leader has already been made; only the timing and the conditions surrounding the release have yet to be ironed out.

U.S. Academic Working on Release

MB190652 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0500 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] An American professor says he is working on negotiations that could have Nelson Mandela freed soon. (Allan Durshovitz), a member of the law faculty at Harvard University, says he is working with (Irwin Cottler) of McGill University in Montreal, and another unidentified person, to secure the release of the jailed ANC leader.

Mr (Durshovitz) says there is a possibility that Mr Mandela could be freed as part of an exchange of prisoners, such the South Africans held in Angolan prisons. He says the Pretoria government told him a month ago that some gesture by the USSR would be seen as a positive step, and the recent prisoner exchange between East and West in Berlin seems to have created an atmosphere conducive to an exchange involving Mr Mandela.

Court Charges Against Mrs Mandela Dropped

MB191133 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1125 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 19, SAPA — Two charges of contravening a banning order that prohibits Mrs Winnie Mandela from entering the magisteral districts of Johannesburg and Roodepoort were withdrawn in the Krugersdorp Regional Court today.

The state supplied no reasons for withdrawing the charges, but advocate Mr Gilbert Marcus for the defence, argued before a capacity-filled courtroom of foreign journalists and Mandela supporters that the effect of the withdrawal was "a further step in this unhappy saga."

"Under normal circumstances, an accused person would be grateful if charges were withdrawn against them, but this means that the state is free at any time to reinstitute the charges against Mrs Mandela."

"The matter is now hanging over Mrs Mandela and she is left in limbo. The only proper course is that she be asked to plead, and therefore be entitled to an acquittal. The states withdrawal is abuse of her rights as a person," Mr Marcus said.

Mrs Mandela left the court building with a large crowd of supporters singing and chanting. Her appearance followed her arrest on two occasions for allegedly contravening her banning order, issued in terms of the Internal Security Act. Referring to her previous apperances in court, Mr Marcus said the state had had information to draft a charge sheet, but the hearing had been postponed twice for further investigation.

The instructing attorneys had made numerous requests to see the charge sheet, and Mrs Mandela had been "subjected to a monthly pilgrimage to this court." Mr George Thiart for the state replied that the hearing had been postponed pending a Supreme Court hearing where Mrs Mandela had challenged the validity of her banning order.

Regional magistrate Mr Chris Eksteen withdrew the charges against Mrs Mandela saying it was the state's prerogative to decide whether to proceed or not, and the court could not instruct the state to proceed.

Le Grange Says Government Will Act Against Unrest

MB181626 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] The minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange, says the government will not hesitate to combat any situation with even more force if this is necessary to ensure the restoration of law and order.

Mr le Grange was addressing the President's Council on the unrest situation. He said there was a marked drop in incidents of unrest in some areas but the general climate in certain places still gave cuase for concern. Mr le Grange denied allegations that police action was too soft or too forceful. He said the police acted in good faith. No irresponsible or illegal action by members of the security forces were tolerated or condoned. Mr le Grange said social conditions in many black towns were without doubt contributory factors in the unrest. He said the government had made 126 million rand available for the upgrading of certain areas while more than 600 million rand has been made available for unemployment projects.

Mr le Grange emphasized that the police and the other security forces acted in a disciplined manner and within the law. Violent people who challenged the state should expect to be dealt with by the authority of the state. Mr le Grange said the security forces would take effective action against all forms of violence but would do so with the least possible loss of life and injury to others.

Sees 'Significant' Drop in Unrest

MB181822 Johannesburg Television Service in English 1700 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] The government's approach to the state of emergency is that the lifting of the state of emergency in the remaining 23 districts will only be considered as soon as law and order has been restored and maintained. The minister of law and order, Mr Louis Le Grange, said in the President's Council that there is a significant decrease in unrest nationwide. The state of emergency has already been lifted in 21 districts.

[Bigin video] [Le Grange] Thankfully, in the state of emergency areas there is a significant decrease, especially in the western Cape and Boland areas. In other areas, there a is significant decrease in unrest such as the eastern Cape, for example, and in the East Rand, and a number of other places. Unfortunately, there are areas in South Africa, the West Rand and others, where there isn't such a great decrease as we would have liked to see, but they are receiving attention and we hope that we will have those areas under control shortly.

[Unidentified reporter] Are you referring to the latest situation in Alexandra township, for example?

[Le Grange] Well, Alexandra township is part of the Witwatersrand police division area and in Alexandra township there were a large number of incidents on Saturday and Sunday, but these incidents emanated from a local incident. The security forces were not involved in the incident or its cause. It developed in the community but the police and the security forces were forced to act. Thus the Alexandra township incidents must be seen in persepctive to the security situation in general.

[Reporter] Minister, you said there was a decrease in incidents. To what do you ascribe this?

[Le Grange] Well, there are many factors. In the first place, effective action by the SAP and security forces, other effective actions such banning of meetings, detention of people in emergency areas and various other reasons which made it possible for a decrease in incidents of unrest.

[Announcer] Mr le Grange said the situation in many black residential areas is without doubt a contributory factor to the present unrest situation. He said the government is giving serious attention to improving the situation. In this connection, the minister referred to the 600 million rand set aside for creating job opportunities. Good progress has been made and cooperation is being experienced from certain quarters. A further 126 million has been made available for the upgrading of areas and services. Mr le Grange said serious attention is being given to any opportunity which could contribute to resolving the unrest situation. Everything possible is being done to prevent a problem developing. [end video]

Botha Releases Transcript of Nov Slabbert Meeting

MB181732 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1731 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Cape Town, February 18, SAPA — The state president, Mr P.W. Botha, today released the transcripts of tape recorded conversations with the former leader of the opposition, Dr van Zyl Slabbert. He has also issued a 12-page rebuttal of Dr Slabberts' charges based on extracts of the 30-page record of the conversation.

In his rebuttal, Mr Botha said Dr Slabbert had, in an interview with the *ARGUS* newspaper on Saturday, conveyed a "faulty" interpretation of his standpoint as well as that of the state president during the discussion. Mr Botha said he respected the confidentiality of private discussions but that Dr Slabbert had betrayed (geskend) this confidentiality by mentioning the conversation during the interview.

The former PFP leader had in fact informed the state president's office that he had no objection to the release of the transcript.

Mr Botha said he could not accept Dr Slabbert's statement as reported in the *ARGUS* that he had decided after meeting the state president on November 25 last year that he could not go through with the current session of Parliament.

Extracts from the full text released; in which Dr Slabbert undertook at the conclusion of their talks to present "a positive contribution" to the minister of constitutional development, Mr Chris Heunis' Cabinet committee, had Dr Slabbert responding to the president's invitation:

"I would very much (bittergraag) want to do it and would like to phone Minister Heunis and find out...."

When the president said he would be seeing Mr Heunis that afternoon and mentioned Dr Slabbert's intentions, Dr Slabbert replied: "I will contact his office tomorrow and see if an opportunity can be arranged." He thanked the president and left.

In his statement today, President Botha commented that these remarks of Dr Slabbert apparently indicated a positive attitude "the moment he left the office, which is in conflict with the negative impression of his attitude which he presently wishes to create."

Mr Botha denied asking Dr Slabbert during the conversation why he (Mr Botha) should take the PFP leader's advice, when the state president had 80 per cent of whites and more than 50 per cent of blacks behind him, with the Progressive Federal Party and the Conservative Party [CP] fighting for the rest of the white vote.

"The words 'but why should I listen to you?' were never used," Mr Botha said.

Three aspects of the conversation had been linked in the report, creating a false impression, he added. According to the transcript, he had told Dr Slabbert: "...The whites accepted much in South Africa under my leadership, and I think 80 per cent of the whites are with me and I think the other 20 per cent are shared by you and Andries Treurnicht (the CP leader) and Jaap Marais (the HNP [Reformed National Party] leader). But 80 per cent of the whites are with me."

Regarding the 50 per cent support of blacks, Mr Botha said he had been referring to support of blacks in South Africa "who do not want to throw their acquired rights in a pot and distance themselves from them (daarvan afstand wil doen nie.)"

After this statement, Mr Botha said, the newspaper report indicated that Dr Slabbert had said he could not believe there could be such divergent interpretations of data.

The president had replied: "I will tell you why. The black people come and sit with me here in the union buildings... and what do they say to me? Sir, don't take your troops and police out of the townships. Keep them there to protect us, we beg you, keep protecting us — the people that make our lives there unpleasantare the minority groups; they are small minorities of intimidators, of victimisers."

Mr Botha said Dr Slabbert's version of their conversation regarding self-determination for whites and the retention of the homelands had been quoted incorrectly and out of context. It appeared from the text, Mr Botha said, that Dr Slabbert accepted that the self-determination of whites should be maintained and that homeland leaders should be included in constitutional negotiations.

Dr Slabbert had said he had "no problem" with the concept of self-determination for whites and with the involvement of the homelands in negotiation, according to the transcript provided by Mr Botha. Mr Botha added that he had never used the words attributed to him that urbanised blacks would be "sorted out with decentralisation."

"The words do not appear (in the text). From the quoted section, it is also clear that the regional services council will come into operation in 1986 and that the government is bound to the development of first tier government for blacks within structures."

Regarding the reported statement by Mr Botha that the tricameral system was a "good start," the state president said he had been incorrectly quoted. According to the transcript, the conversation was follows:

Dr Slabbert: "I do not mean the total Constitution of South Africa must be destroyed. I am talking of the tricameral system..."

Mr Botha: "But we said that's the starting point..."

Dr Slabbert: "That's the point of departure (Vertrekpunt).

Mr Botha: "The point of departure."

Mr Botha also rejected statements that "nothing would change" regarding whites' right to own schools, residential areas and to maintain "the money they built up with such difficulty over the years."

According to the transcript, Mr Botha said:

"...I do not want to have sole say over the whites in South Africa. That is not practical politics. And I say that from the stage. But what I do say is that the white's lifestyle will be interfered with if his rights to educate his child as he chooses, if his language is threatened, if his residential areas — those things — if the riches that he has gathered, if these things are taken away from him, then I say to you, we are looking for trouble. You have conceded that to me in previous discussions."

Dr Slabbert replied: "No, I can't think how it could be expected that he, he says he will voluntarily step down from these things..."

Botha, Slabbert Discuss Buthelezi

MB181944 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1943 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Cape Town, Feb 18, SAPA — The trouble with Chief Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi of KwaZulu is that he did not want to speak jointly with other blacks, the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, told the former PFP [Progressive Federal Party] leader, Dr van Zyl Slabbert, according to transcripts of tapes released today.

Dr Slabbert in turn, said that Chief Buthelezi's problem was that he knew if Nelson Mandela died he would end up being the Bishop Abel Muzorewa of South Africa.

In their conversation last November President Botha said: "I will tell you what is Buthelezi's trouble. Buthelezi's problem is that he wants to speak alone but he does not want to speak jointly with other blacks."

Dr Slabbert agreed with him but said this problem could be overcome.

"How?" the president asked.

"He must, as the Englishman says, he must be locked into an initiative. And I have a very strong feeling that we are on the threshold of such an intitiative where he can be involved."

President Botha told Dr Slabbert that he had told Chief Buthelezi that what the Zulu people needed in the first place was not political rights which they already had.

The president then told Dr Slabbert about conversations he had had with Chief Buthelezi about the Tugela areas and that a 10 to 20 year programme was to be tackled in the interests of the Zulu people.

Dr Slabbert said he was sure the chief agreed.

"But why does he not come and talk to us about it," the president asked.

Dr Slabbert said Chief Buthelezi's problem lay on a symbolic level. "You see Buthelezi and the ANC are devouring each other at the moment. I mean they are going for each, it is incredible how they are going for each other," he said.

"Yes that is all they are doing," the president responded.

"I told you at the beginning of the year that his big problem is that should Mandela die in jail he will become the (Bishop Abel) Muzorewa of South Africa and he is aware of it. He is scared of it."

The ANC was involved in a strong anti-Buthelezi campaign.

"The ANC wants to be the only bull in the kraal. And Buthelezi wants to be the only bull in the kraal," Dr Slabbert said.

"And they can't be, " the president said.

Dr Slabbert agreed and said he had told both of them this. "There are many more bulls in the kraal than you realise," he had told the ANC.

He had also warned the ANC that no matter how much they hated Buthelezi, he was the only one sending his children to school which meant that in 10 years time the only educated people in the country and the only rural people in the country were going to be Zulus, "and where does that leave you?"

However, they did not see the issue in this light.

Discuss ANC

MB182009 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2008 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Cape Town, Feb 18, SAPA — The ANC was a romantic myth which could be conquered, the former leader of the opposition, Dr van Zyl Slabbert, told the state president during an interview last November.

This was revealed in a transcript of the taped conversation between the two men released by the state president's office today.

On the issue of the ANC, Dr Slabbert said: "The ANC can be conquered. The trouble with the ANC is that it is a myth — no not a myth — it is a romantic image to those abroad."

He asked the president to believe that his actions in speaking to the ANC was an attempt to defuse the situation and told him that he could "pull the teeth of the whole ANC story".

The ANC was not in a position to handle the unrest situation in South Africa, "no matter what they say". "They can talk as much as they want to on Freedom Radio. I told them in Lusaka that if they were really in control of the situation, why didn't they call a moratorium on violence for six weeks and say we will show you.

"They did not know they could do it," Dr Slabbert told President Botha. "So the first point that I think is important is that the ANC should not be held up as an organisation which is so powerful that they can handle the unrest."

President Botha replied: "No, I don't say that either."

Dr Slabbert said he believed the ANC would be in "very deep water" if it should try to exert control because young blacks in the townships who were now militant were much more militant than anything he had encountered in Lusaka.

"I believe that..." said President Botha. He then switched the conversation to giving young blacks work rather than academic training which would make them "all the more frustrated." What was needed was the type of training that made them "fruitful people" and the government was busy with this long process.

Dr Slabbert said he had stressed to the ACN that its belief that "liberation was just around the corner" and that their "education after liberation" slogan for children would leave many dead which would result in a youth "cultural revolution" like Mao's mob." This would result in "a lot of unemployable people in 10 years' time."

He had also told the ANC that it was not possible for a white government to negotiate the transfer of power out of its own hands to whatever majority.

"It is not on," he had told them.

"It's not going to work like that and they know it."

He had already got feedback that they had listened, "but they are wary of me."

He had got the same feedback from the UDF [United Democratic Front]. "They (UDF) have a campaign against me too," he said, "and you must know that I took a strong stand against the UDF's attitude on the question of negotiating participation in the tricameral Parliament.

Slabbert Asks For Transcript Text

MB190611 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0528 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 19, SAPA — The former leader of the PFP, Dr Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, has called on the head of the National Intelligence Service, Dr Neil Barnard, to release the transcript of the conversation he had with him following a meeting last month with the state president, Mr P.W. Botha.

Dr Slabbert said the text would provide "more complete background to the frustration and disappointment" he experienced as a result of his converstion with Mr Botha — which he has said led to his resignation in Parliament on February 7.

In a statement to SAPA this morning Dr Slabbert said he did not have the time to study the transcript of conversation he had with the president which Mr Botha released yesterday.

But he did say: "I am completely satisfied that the substance of that conversation showed a president sadly out of touch with his own country and determined to carry on with essential apartheid structures in residential areas, education and politics."

Dr Slabbert added that he found it "extraordinary that he (Mr Botha) now complains about confidentiality when he did not have the common courtesy to tell me that he was bugging a confidential interview that I requested." "Anyone in future should know that if they talk to the president of this country the word confidentiality means something special to him," Dr Slabbert said.

He then appealled to Dr Barnard "to release the full transcript of the conversation" he had with him. "This will provide more complete background to the frustration and disappointment I experienced as a result of my conversation with the state president," he said. Dr Slabbert added that he had "specifically requested Dr Barnard to tape record our conversation and to send copies of it to whomsoever he wished — but particularly to the state president himself."

Pik Botha Cites Harare Assurance on Terror Attack

MB190701 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] The South African minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, says the Zimbabwean Government has reconfirmed that its territory will not be used or made available for acts of terrorism against South Africa.

Replying to a question in the House of Assembly in Cape Town, Mr Botha confirmed that the South African Government has had discussions with the Zimbabwean Government following the recent series of terrorist activities, including the landmine explosions in the northern Transvaal.

Mr Botha said he had received the assurance that the matter would be investigated. Mr Botha said the facts and circumstances of each act of terrorism had been conveyed to the Zimbabwean Government imediately they had been reported, together with the South African Government's concern over indications that those responsible had (?openly) operated from Zimbabwean territory and had again fled (?back there).

Further Reportage on Unrest in Alexandra

Estimated 20 Killed, 700 Wounded

MB181939 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1938 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Johannesburg, Feb 18, SAPA — The minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange, was today asked to ensure that policemen and members of the defence force patrolling black townships were accompanied by senior officers.

The call was made by Mr Michael Beea, chairman of the Alexandra Civic Association, following the shootings which have taken place in his strife-torn township over the past four days.

"We are aware that in the event of trouble in townships our people are being shot by young and inexperienced soldiers and policemen, most of whom are gun crazy," he said in an interview with SAPA.

"What is disturbing is that in a meeting I held with senior police officers today, one of them admitted that state troop carriers patrolling the townships were being manned by young whites most of whom were fresh form school."

He said senior police officers had told him that these young men used their own discretion to shoot in unrest incidents.

"Obviously," Mr Beea continued, "give any youngster a gun and he will enjoy shooting at people — particularly when he has satisfied himself that the law will be on his side." He said he had evidence that "harmless people, most of whom were law abiding," had been shot at by police and army troops during the trouble in the township. Some had been shot at in their homes, he claimed.

A SAPA reporter spoke to Mr Beea at his home where he was busy compiling a list of the injured and dead in Alexandra. Mr Beea estimated that about 700 people had been wounded and approximately 20 killed. He said he was receiving regular reports of those who had died in hospital.

Bishop Tutu Addresses Residents

MB181926 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1925 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 18, SAPA — Bishop Desmond Tutu helped defuse the volatile situation in Alexandra township near Johannesburg when he addressed thousands of residents at a mass meeting in the township this afternoon.

The residents had gathered at a stadium in Alexandra to demand the removal of security forces from the township after three days of bitter street fighting between residents and police had left a least nineteen people dead.

Before addressing the mass meeting Bishop Tutu — together with churchmen Dr Allan Boesak, Dr Beyers Naude and Bishop Manas Buthelezi — had held talks with senior police officers at the local Wynberg police station to discuss the situation in the township.

According to Mr Mike Beea, chairman of the Alexandra Civic Association, the police officers agreed at this meeting that:

— Police and the army would maintain a low profile in the township.

— Residents would be allowed to visit the mortuary to identify the dead.

— Police would not harass residents by making house-to-house searches at night.

— A senior police officer would convey the residents' demands for a withdrawal of security forces from the township to his superiors.

Addressing the mass meeting, Bishop Tutu appealed to residents to unite in the face of problams they experienced due to government policies.

"I know we all want freedom but we must get it in a disciplined manner," said Bishop Tutu. He appealed to residents to go home peacefully.

Bishop Tutu's address to the mass meeting, in which he conveyed the contents of the police undertaking, came after a dramatic series of events in the township today.

This morning, Bishop Tutu and the other churchmen in his delegation were barred by police from entering the township to talk to the assembled residents. They then met with members of the civic association in the Roman Catholic church on the outskirts of the township.

This meeting then managed to arrange an hour-long consultation with senior SAP officers, including a brigadier and two colonels. It was at this meeting that the police undertakings were made, according to Mr Beea. However, Dr Boesak and Dr Naude were then barred from entering the township and only Bishop Tutu and Bishop Manas Buthelezi were able to address the meeting.

Tutu Interviewed on Violence

MB191126 London BBC World Service in English 0709 GMT 19 Feb 86

[From the "24 Hours" program]

[Text] Black church leader Bishop Desmond Tutu has been visiting the Johannesburg township of Alexandra which has been the scene of violence and rioting for the past 4 days. Shortly after his visit, Bishop Tutu described the mood in Alexandra to Tudo Lomez.

[Begin recording] [Lomez] It is a very volatile, very explosive situation, and a great deal of credit must go to the local community leaders and ministers, including student leaders who have been able to hold the people together. They are incensed by the harassment that they claim come from the police and security forces who used teargas and other means to get at the people quite unecessarily, they believe, for instance, at funerals and things of that kind.

[Lomez] What did you say, what were you able to say to the people of Alexandra?

[Tutu] At the stadium where there were probably 30,000 people, we assured them that the churches were with them and we were concerned. We reminded them that there was no question at all about the ultimate victory of our cause and then said that because we were going to win, they must be disciplined people, and therefore would disperse from the stadium in an orderly fashion, they would not kill one another using methods of which we would be ashamed in the future, that they would allow their parents to go back to work — these were the students, — and they did agree initially also that they were going to go back to school. Subsequently they said no, they were fearing to be harassed by the police, and they wanted assurances that they could identify their dead at the mortuary without falling foul of the law, as it were, and running the gauntlet of police wrath.

[Lomez] Can you assure the security forces after your contacts in Alexandra that the people there will go peacefully back to their homes if the security forces withdraw?

[Tutu] Of course, I can not give an absolute guarantee but I know that in the past, such as the one that we had today would pass off reasonably peacefully. I mean there have been very emotional gatherings such as funerals at Uitenhage and elsewhere, where when the police have kept a low profile, the people have in fact behaved impecably and that is what we tried to impress on the police when we met with them and we had a very good meeting with Brigadier (Venitch) and his associates and said for instance, if they could stay out of the township tonight the chances were that there would be no untoward incidents. Now, we are obviously praying very hard that nothing does happen and I learned that the security forces have in fact been withdrawn.

[Lomez] What is your message to the government of President Botha at this time about what is happening in Alexandra, which is of course just one of many, many such outbreaks in the country?

[Tutu] It is the same message that we have kept giving: Until we get rid of apartheid, of in fact, you know, of oppression, anything else we do is peripheral.

Schools Empty, Residents at Work

MB191157 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1148 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Johannesburg, Feb 19, SAPA — All schools at unrest-torn Alexandra township were deserted today following four days of rioting. The township was quiet with most people having returned to work after staying away for two days. Shops were also operating normally.

A few members of the security forces were still patrolling the township and others were keeping watch at factories situated at the border of the township which had been targets of petrol bombers.

Yesterday Bishop Desmond Tutu called on the residents to return to work today and all pupils to return to their classes.

SAP Accused of Demanding Medical Info

MB181117 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1110 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Johannesburg, Feb 18, SAPA — Security forces have been accused of trying to force medical staff at the Alexandra Health Centre to hand over "confidential" information about patients treated for unrest-related injuries. The accusations have been made by the National Medidcal and Dental Association.

Asked to comment, a police spokesman in Pretoria said that "during the normal course of their investigations, detectives did visit the Alexandra Health Centre and questioned personnel."

The centre had treated about 10 patients for "penetration injuries" every day since Saturday, when the violence broke out, it was learned.

Staff at the centre, fearing the possibility of reprisals for alleged "co-operation" with police, said in a statement today that they would not give any third party, including the police, access to patients' medical records unless they wre compelled to do so by subpoena.

The health centre staff refused to hand over any information and the security forces then subpoenaed the health centre to submit information about patients.'

"NAMDA [National Medical and Dental Association] opposes the interference of the security forces in the health services. Those injured, or ill, should be free to use the health services knowing that they will not be subjected to victimisation, harassment, imprisonment or any other form of activity by the security forces.

"The medical and other health-related professions must stand firm in opposing any intervention by the security forces into the health services.

Committee members who believe that health personnel have incorrectly handed over information to the security forces, or co-operated with them, to the detriment of their patients, should contact NAMDA or report the incident to the South African Medical and Dental Council," the spokesman said.

It was later established that the subpoena referred to in the NAMDA statement had been withdrawn. A spokesman for the South African Medical and Dental Council was unavailable for comment.

Police Use Teargas Against KwaMashu Students

MB181316 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Excerpt] There has been tension and unrest in several Natal townships over dissatisfaction with local schools, following a number of boycotts at Durban schools since last week. Carmel Rickard has the details.

[Rickard] Police used teargas and birdshot in KwaMashu this morning after a [words indistinct] of students gathered outside the local curcuit inspector's office. They were complaining about the nonarrival of textbooks and stationery. According to students in the area, a committee for KwaMashu consisting of the local curcuit inspector, the mayor, a parent, a teacher, and student representative will be going to the KwaZulu capital of Ulundi tomorrow. They want to discuss a number of issues, including a student demand that student representative councils be allowed to operate legally on school campuses.

Man Killed, Policemen Injured

MB191156 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1131 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Durban, Feb 19, SAPA — A man was shot dead and two policeman injured during unrest in KwaMashu yesterday afternoon.

Police said the man was shot dead after a mob had stoned a police vehicle in patrol in the township. Two policemaen were injured after being struck by stones. Private vehicles were also stoned and a bakery van was burned.

Police used tear gas to disperse the mob, who were on their way to a meeting at the soccer stadium to protest against school fees.

Police said the situation was back to normal in the township today.

'Intimidators' Force Pupils From Garankuwa School

MB190948 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0938 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Garankuwa, Feb 19, SAPA — Incidents of unrest occurred in Mabopane township in Garankuwa today as intimidators forced pupils to leave their classrooms, two buses were hijacked and a local authority's offices was gutted by fire.

Youths hijacked the buses, which were later found with all the windows missing. Burning tyres scattered in the streets blocked the smooth flow of traffic. The superintendent's administration offices and a water tanker were gutted by fire.

4 Killed, 4 Injured in Vaal Reefs Mine Incident

MB190950 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0935 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 19, SAPA — Four employees were killed and four others injured in an incident involving team leaders and workers at Vaal Reefs gold mine, near Klerksdorp, last night. All the dead and injured were team leaders, a spokesman for the mine said today.

The cause of the incident, which took place at the east division No 5 shaft hostel between 2100 and 2200, is being investigated by the mine management and the police.

Two Killed in Soweto for Being Informers

MB181400 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1359 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Johannesburg, Feb 18, SAPA — Two people were killed when they were doused with petrol and set alight by a group of youths who accused them of being informers in two separate incidents in Soweto yesterday.

In the first incident a 65-year-old grandmother, Mrs Mary Sikosana, of White City Jabavu was set alight at her home by a group of youths who accused her of being a sell-out.

In the second incident another group of youths attacked a 23-year-old man of Emdeni township after accusing him, also, of being an informer.

Fully dressed, he was also doused with petrol and set alight not far from his home. When the police arrived on the scene he had already died.

No arrests have been made in both cases.

Police Patrol Witbank; Residents Stay at Home

MB191356 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1355 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Text] Witbank, Feb 19, SAPA — Police said the SADF was on patrol in the black township at Witbank today and companies reported an almost total stayaway by black workers.

A spokesman for the police directorate of public relations in Pretoria said the Witbank township was "quiet" today, the only incident being the burning of an Indian's house by arsonists.

The army was deployed in Witbank last night. Police were patrolling the city centre in twos and threes, a resident said, and several shops were closed.

A resident said groups were intimidating commuters and shopkeepers and very few black people had gone to town this week.

"They go into the shops and any black staff they find working, they order them out," she said. "And blacks are warned if they come to work, their homes are going to be set on fire."

A spokesman for supermarket chains said all the black members of staff had stayed away. White temporary workers and schoolchildren had been employed, he said.

Police Issue Latest Unrest Situation Reports

Late 18 Feb

MB181717 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1716 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Pretoria, Feb 18, SAPA — Following is the SA police 7pm unrest situation report:

"Witwatersrand

"In Alexandra this morning a mob of blacks attacked a police vehicle with petrol-bombs. Not less than six petrol-bombs were thrown at the police vehicle. The SA police had made use of shotguns to disperse the attackers. Two black males above 18 and one black male under 18 were fatally wounded. Six black females and five black males, all under 18, were also arrested in this incident for public violence.

"Stones had also been thrown at private vehicles as well as at the SAP in various other incidents. A private vehicle was also set alight by arsonists.

"Isolated incidents of intimidation also occured. The police made use of tear smoke to disperse the mobs. A black male under 18 was arrested at an illegal gathering. The rest of the gathering had been dispersed peacefully. Since before noon it has been all quiet in the area.

Various incidents of robbery and looting of delivery vehicles and stonethrowing incidents at buses and police vehicles took place in KwaMashu near Durban today. A police vehicle was petrol-bombed and a private vehicle was set alight by arsonists. One black male above 18 was fatally wounded by the SAP during stonethrowing attacks at the SAP. Another black male, above 18, was wounded and arrested.

"In the South Western Districts near Hanover, a school was set alight by arsonists.

"At Kabokweni, a petrol bomb was thrown at a member of the SAP's private home and a black woman was injured in a stone-throwing incident.

"In Tembisa two delivery vehicles were destroyed after arsonists set it alight."

End report.

Early 19 Feb

MB190637 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0633 GMT 19 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Pretoria, Feb 19, SAPA — The following is the 8am unrest report from the police directorate of Public Relations in Pretoria:

"The following incidents of unrest were reported overnight:

"At Zwide near Port Elizabeth police used shotgun fire to disperse mobs when a police vehicle was petrol-bombed and a private home was stoned.

"At the black residential area near Knsna, a bus and a private vehicle were extensively damaged by arsonists.

"A mob was dispersed with tearsmoke when a police vehicle was petrol-bombed.

"At Soweto (Witwatersrand) a motorcycle and a private vehicle were extensively damaged by arsonists."

"In the white residential area, West End, Kimberley, a private dwelling was stoned by a mob of blacks. No damage was caused.

"At Venterspos, black residential area near Krugersdorp the South African police dispersed a mob which was stoning them, with shotgun fire, rubber bullets and tearsmoke.

"At the gold mine the SAP used shotgun fire to disperse a mob when they were stoned. Five people were wounded. Sixteen people were injured by the mob.

"At Atteridgeville (near Pretoria) three private homes were damaged by petrol bombs."

Ends report.

Durban's First Integrated Bus Service Approved

MB130821 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0745 GMT 13 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Durban, Feb 13, SAPA — Durban won approval for its first integrated bus service yesterday when the local road transportation board agreed to allow the green-line buses, previously reserved for Indians, Coloureds and blacks, to be used by all races on some route.

All blue-line buses remain reserved for whites.

Mr Alan Bray, acting general manager for the Durban Transport Management Board [DTMB], said the green-line buses had been desegregated with immediate effect.

Mr David Bennett, transportation committee chairman, said: We have been making similar applications over the years and they have been habitually rejected.

"The board rejected the previous applications almost immediately, but this time they postponed a decision and now some three to five months after the application was made, have made a favourable decision. I would speculate that it was enhanced by the present stance of the government in these matters," Mr Bennet said.

Stellenbosch Receives Check for Multiracial Hostel

MB122110 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1930 GMT 12 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Cape Town, Feb 12, SAPA — As a first step to what could become fully racially integrated hostels on its campus, Stellenbosch University today accepted a R1-million cheque to build a hostel complex for black, Indian and coloured students.

The cheque was presented to the rector, Professor Mike de Vries, by the chairman and chief executive of the Gold Fields Foundation, Mr Robin Plumbridge, at a function at the university.

In a carefully worded statement, Prof de Vries said that since 1978, when the university opened its doors conditionally to students of other race groups, the number of coloured students had increased constantly.

"Due to further recent revision of the university's rules for enrollment, the intake of coloured students has doubled this year, resulting in inadequate accommodation for coloured and black students."

Prof de Vries said that in order to meet this pressing need coloured, black and Indian students would "for the time being" receive preference when accommodation in the new complex was allocated.

Mr Plumbridge said there clearly was a need for universities to broaden and cater for all racial groups.

"There are sensitivities when it comes to the residential side but I am sure these will disapper very quickly when one gets a meeting of minds of people with similar intellects. I believe this project will act as a catalyst at this university.

"The university's policy of opening to other races is clearly indicative of the direction all academic institutions must go and in fact that's the way the country's going."

Press Examines Current Issues, Problems

[Editorial Report] PFP's 'Young Lions'

Johannesburg *THE SUNDAY STAR* in English on 16 February carries a front-page report by David Breier which says the election of the "young lions" Peter Gastrow, Ken Andrew and Robin Carlisle to high-visibility PFP positions was a "blow to the more 'traditional' wing of the PFP, represented by men such as Mr Harry Schwarz and Mr Horace van Rensburg." It indicates "the PFP will now concentrate more boldly than before on issues outside the parliamentary system and will be less confined to its traditional 'tame' role in Parliament." The PFP's new role "will include monitoring excessive violence by the security forces and keeping closer contact with the grievances of black community organisations, including those affiliated to the United Democratic Front (UDF)."

'Child Warriors' Described

"Political differences are turning brother against brother in the townships of Port Elizabeth," Ken Vernon says on page 4. Reporting on violence in which at least 8 people have died in the last few days, Vernon interviewed a number of members of the Azanian National Youth Unity (AZANYU) who are staying at a "safe" house in another township. The youths claimed they were attacked by a UDF splinter group, and are planning revenge. Mudumiso, a 14-year-old member of AZANYU, "is perhaps typical of many of this new breed of child warriors. He is the product of a broken home, his father is dead and he says his mother is 'somewhere in Cape Town.' " By being a member of the group "he has a chance to survive. Outside of it he believes he has none."

Employment, Population Figures Conflict

Linda Vergnani reports on page 9 that Charles Meth, a lecturer in economics at the University of Natal, has compared two sets of government statistics on black workers and found a discrepancy of about 1,136,000 workers. "'In mining for instance, the current population survey says there are 714,000 black workers, yet the labour statistics say there are 637,000 blacks employed in mining.'" The population survey is based on workers' descriptions of themselves while the employment statistics are obtained from employers. Meth says if all the "missing" workers are added to the official unemployment figures, it would double the estimate.

Botha 'Driving Away' Black Leaders

Jon Qwelane reports on page 9 that Alexandra Mayor Sam Buti has become the latest black leader to refuse to participate in the proposed national statutory council. "Mr Buti says he completely rejects — and will boycott — this approach by the state president." Qwelane notes: "When President Botha aligned himelf with the hardline interpretation of his speech by Transvaal National Party leader, Mr F.W. de Klerk, he inadvertently drove away even those leaders who might have considered participating in the proposed council."

Boraine on Getting Out

Commenting on his decison to resign from Parliament, Alex Boraine says on page 15: "There is a direct link between the Tricameral Parliament and the unrest, the deaths, the injuries and the destruction which have taken place during 1985." He adds that the new constitution "has actually eroded the credibility of Parliament which it once enjoyed among large groups of coloured and Indian South Africans."

Government Fears on Mandela

David Breier says on page 15 that the main hurdle to the release of Nelson Mandela is "his refusal to go into exile." The government is afraid that if he is released internally, "his presence would promote a monumental local reaction of unpredictable proportions." By releasing Mandela the government could gain international credibility, a favorable rescheduling of the foreign debt, and some local goodwill. "But if it has to release Mr Mandela internally, the government fears it could lose control of the country."

PFP 'New Blood'

In a report on the front page of Johannesburg *SUNDAY TIMES* in English on 16 February on the meeting to elect Colin Eglin as leader of the PFP political correspondent Max du Preez notes that "a significant feature" of the lections is the "new blood in the hierarchy of the party — all under 45 years old." One "rising star" is Peter Gastrow, who became the PFP's national chairman. Du Preez adds that "a party congress is now scheduled for August to elect a new leadership — and there is already strong suggestion that Mr Gastrow will make a bid for the top spot."

AWB Military Force

Stephan Terblanche reports on page 7 that the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (Afrikaner Resistance Movement, AWB), "plans to establish a military type force which, it claims, will number thousands. The 'commando' would be used to 'defend the interests of whites in South Africa.' " AWB leader Eugene TerreBlanche said "members of the force — who would be required to dress in khaki for meetings — would be trained in handling emergencies, explosions, fires and communications."

Violence in Port Elizabeth

Allan Soule reports on page 9 on a "brutal resurgence of politically rooted inter-faction violence" in Port Elizabeth's black townships. The violence was the result of "an unlikely peace pact" between the United Democratic Front (UDF) and the Azanian People's Organization (AZAPO), which caused "hardline radicals" in both organizations to break away and form dissident groups. Five of the eight political activists killed in the fighting are believed to have been members of the UDF's dissident faction, which calls itself the "'Young ANC,'" while the other three were members of a branch of Azanian National Youth Unity (AZANU) established in Port Elizabeth by AZAPO dissidents. An AZANU leader claimed the dead "were all victims of a blitz aimed at purging the township of political opposition" and added that 95 refugees are now holed up in New Brighton.

Port Elizabeth Ungovernable

In his "Another View" column on page 14, Ken Owen writes that the ANC's campaign to make South Africa ungovernable has virtually succeeded in the eastern Cape. Two-thirds of the community councils in the eastern Cape have collapsed and two out of four black local authorities have ceased to function. "Police and army units patrol the streets, but the law which prevails is the of the jungle: People are tried by kangaroo courts, without any of the safeguards that civilisation has developed in its search for justice, and executed on street corners. The security forces go around afterwards to pick up the corpses." The government is unable to collect rents and officials "are looting capital development funds for current expenditure, a fundamental corruption of the principles of good government which has recently manifested itself in the central government, too."

Slabbert Defends Resignation

In a column on page 15 defending his resignation, Fredrik van Zyl Slabbert responds to criticism over the timing of his resignation by saying that he preferred to resign "quickly while Parliament was in session and the PFP could carry on its work. Because it has to carry on. Apartheid has to be opposed and exposed for what it is in Parliament as well. I have always said so and say so now." Although he admits that he did "betray the hopes of the people" by resigning, "to keep some of those hopes alive by continuing would have been to delude those who cherished those hopes. To simply sit there gathering full pension and become exhibit A for the Government's sense of democracy would have been a supreme act of self-indulgence."

Open Education Urged

Johannesburg *THE STAR* in English on 17 February carries an "edited" version of Horace van Rensburg's, Progressive Federal Party member of Parliament from Bryanston, speech during the no-confidence debate. Rensburg urges the quick death of apartheid, perhaps by "firing squad at dawn" and says "every Cabinet Minister must deliver a fatal shot to apartheid because every Cabinet Minister has some apartheid in his department that must be eliminated." He then suggests the creation of a Department of Open Education to allow for the creation of open schools. "All existing schools could be given the right to choose by way of a decision of their parent bodies whether they wish to remain under their existing departments or fall under the Department of Open Education." He urges the government, since it "finds it impossible to accept our urgent representations for the opening of all education," to consider his suggestion as an "interim compromise arrangement."

STAR Supports Rensburg

In an editorial on page 12, the *STAR* urges support for Rensburg's proposal, saying, "Nonracial education is the only ultimate guarantee of equal education; this would be at least a start towards it."

Council Attacks Started Riots

Johannesburg *SOWETAN* in English on 17 February carries a front-page report by Mojalefa Moseki and Vusi Radebe which says the rioting began in Alexandra on Saturday "when young mourners attacked the homes and businesses of town council members. Cars, commercial vehicles and buses were damaged by the mobs, who sang freedom songs and raised clenched fist salutes." It was after this, when mourners returned to the homes of the dead for the traditional washing of hands, that police opened fire with tearsmoke and rubber bullets. The reports adds that the house of a detective and a local businessman were set alight in the Ackerville township near Witbank, and pamphlets have been distributed in that area "calling on residents to stay away from work" on Monday.

Church Raid Condemned

In its editorial on page 4, the *SOWETAN* condemns the police action against youths at the Wilgespruit church center when helicopters and cars opened fire on children taking refuge there. "The chief of the police responsible for this unhappy incident should be carpeted at best, or sacked at worst. It is totally irresponsible behaviour which exposes the police to ridicule and attack." The apartheid system is turning children "into angry anti-social people who do not care for their own safety" and who are "hateful fighters," it warns.

Eglin Rejects ANC Violence

Tony Stirling reports on page 10 that Colin Eglin has indicated "he would only be prepared to see the ANC included in constitutional negotiation if it rejected violence." Eglin confirmed that a "clear part of the PFP's future strategy would be to try to get constitutional negotiations going through broadening the Party's base outside of Parliament."

DIE TRANSVALER on PFP

Pretoria *DIE TRANSVALER* in Afrikaans on 17 February 86 says in an editotial on page 10 that "it is meaningful that the Federal Council of the Progressive Federal Party [PFP] has emphasized that it will take a more active part in extraparliamentary activity." Whether the PFP, with its clashing internal factions, is capable of playing a meaningful role outside Parliament is another matter. It cannot be doubted that the debate on the future of South Africa has shifted to a sphere outside Parliament to a greater degree, but in the interests of orderliness, any action aimed at undermining the authority of Parliament should be nipped in the bud.

Civilian Antilandmine Vehicles

Johannesburg *RAPPORT* in Afrikaans on 16 February says on page 4 "that farmers and people on the borders of South Africa and South-West Africa may soon be able to buy specially developed antilandmine vehicles to protect them from terrorist attacks." The South African Bureau of Standards is busy with specifications for such vehicles to be used by civilians.

Suzman on Reform Hopes

Neil Jacobsohn interviews PFP member Helen Suzman on page 4 on the parliamentary role of the PFP. Suzman says: "'Obviously we cannot repeal the apartheid laws that we would like to. But what we can do is allow nothing to go by default, to highlight government' idiotic actions — such as the Moutse affair — and to hold government answerable for its sins and omissions.'" She notes that extraparliamentary actions such as strikes and consumer boycotts "'will undoubtedly be increasingly potent, but ironically enough, only so long as blacks are employed and have increasing consumer power.'" She adds: "'We are in for a long, hard hoe in this country. Young blacks who think that 'liberation is around the corner' will learn that nothing is further from the truth. We are in for a long period of attrition, with increasing urban violence and a government which, if not displaced, will meet the situation with tougher police and military action. That to my mind is what we really have to do — to show the white electorate that this is the scenario unless we act to change it.'"

Heunis on Local Powersharing

Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning Chris

Heunis told Parliament on Monday that "it is imperative that self-determination and power-sharing without domination be established at local government level," *THE STAR* reports on page 4. He said local government and the joint provision of service by Regional Services Councils would be "an important part of any constitutional future for South Africa."

Moutse Opposition 'Shrewd Politics'

In an editorial on page 14 *THE STAR* says the Indian and colored houses of Parliament are "playing shrewd politics" by opposing the incorporation of Moutse into KwaNdebele. They are "showing solidarity with black protest and forcing the government to weigh its obstinacy on Moutse against the value of continued co-operation from the coloured and Indian groups." "How the Government responds will say much about its own view of its institution: the tricameral Parliament."

Hunger Striker in Hospital

Johannesburg *SOWETAN* in English on 18 February reports on page 1 that Ronald Swart, a Kliptown teacher who was detained under the state of emergency regulations last year, and who was participating in a hunger strike at Diepkloof Prison last week has been admitted to Johannesburg hospital. South African Police said they had no knowledge of the incident.

Police Urged To Keep Out

In its editorial on page 4, the *SOWETAN* says the violence in Alexandra township is cause for grave concern and the "hamhanded way in which security forces handle funerals in townships is rather irresponsible." "The police are not showing restraint and careful handling of these emotional situations. They should therefore stay away from funerals."

UDF Rejects Role in Killings

"The United Democratic Front [UDF] has rejected police claims that its members were responsible for the death of two people in Port Elizabeth recently," the *SOWETAN* reports on page 5. UDF executive member Mkhuseli Jack said it was "'absolute nonsense'" that his organisation's supporters killed two Azanian National Youth Unity Members. The Azanian People's Organization has also denied any involvement in the killings.

ZAMBIA

ANC Spokesman Says 40 Refugees Arrive From Lesotho

MB171842 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] A spokesman for the African National Congress said today that 40 more men and women refugees have been expelled from Lesotho by that country's military government. He said the 40 are now in the country and they arrived over the weekend. The spokesman, who was speaking in an interview, said the Lesotho military ruler, Major General Justin Lekhanya, declared the refugees unwanted persons and they were taken out of Lesotho by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. The first group of 67 women and children was flown out of Maseru soon after the coup which overthrew Prime Minister Chief Leabua Jonathan.

ZIMBABWE

Lesotho Mission Meets Banana, Leaves for Tanzania

MB131705 Maseru Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 13 Feb 86

[Text] The president of Zimbabwe, His Excellency Rev Canaan Banana, yesterday received a 6-man Lesotho delegation currently on a special mission to six southern African countries, led by Lieutenant Colonel Thaabe Letsie, a member of the Military Council of Lesotho.

The delegation arrived in Harare yesterday morning from Lusaka, Zambia, to deliver a special message from his majesty to President Banana. During discussions, President Banana said that his government had followed events in Lesotho with keen interest, as the two nations had a common history and destination as southern African countries, and as members of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, SADCC.

The president said Zimbabwe was fully conscious of Lesotho's position as a landlocked country. He expressed the hope that the new administration in Lesotho continue cooperating with Zimbabwe to facilitate economic development of the southern African region. He also hoped that the new administration in Lesotho would respond to the needs and wishes of the Basotho nation, and to respect their democratic rights to solve their own problems.

The Lesotho delegation also met the Zimbabwean minister of foreign affairs, Dr Witness Mangwende, and other senior officials of the Zimbabwean Government, before proceeding to Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania yesterday afternoon, where they held talks last night with the Tanzanian first vice president and prime minister, Mr Joseph Warioba, and other senior Tanzanian Government officials.

The delegation conveyed a special message from his majesty to President Ali Hassan Mwinyi, which, it is believed, briefed the Tanzanian leader on the situation in Lesotho. During discussions, Prime Minister Warioba told the Lesotho delegation that it was the obligation of all Africa to assist Lesotho to ease the burden caused by the presence of South African refugees in Lesotho. He added that Tanzania was aware of Lesotho's limitations in security and economic resources, and would do her best to assist where possible.

Also in Dar es Salaam talks were held between the Lesotho delegation and a delegation from the Pan-Africanist Congress, PAC, of South Africa concerning the welfare and treatment of refugees in Lesotho.

The delegation left Dar es Salaam this morning for talks with the Mozambican Government in Maputo.